



# OLD CINEMA IS ON THE MARKET

Reprint by Richard Guttridge

**A LANDMARK former cinema in Stourbridge has been put on the market for £350,000.**

Development opportunities are being invited for the former Savoy cinema on Lower High Street.

The property contains a series of interlinked buildings which stretch onto Crown Lane.

The historic building has not been used as a cinema for more than three decades and in recent years attracted controversy when it was the Heaven lap-dancing club. It has also been used for retail purposes and more recently was a health and fitness club.

Alan Knight, head of commercial at Walton and Hipkiss, which is handling the sale of the building, said groups wanting to reopen it as a cinema had shown interest in the building, but believes it is more likely the site will become housing.

He said: "We have had interest from people wanting to refurbish it to use as a gym and re-develop it for residential use."

"We have had a couple of enquiries from cinema operators who like to retain or bring back into use cinemas that have been left empty."

"The problem with the Savoy is that it has been dismantled as a cinema."

"It is a multi-storey building with concrete floors, so I think it is unlikely because of the sheer cost that would be involved."

## Residential

"I think it's more likely there will be some sort of residential conversion."

Mr Knight said there had been a high level of interest and he didn't expect the building to be on the market for long. He revealed that whatever plan a new buyer has, the frontage onto Lower High Street will remain.

He said: "It is a big site, is next to the ring road and adjacent to the new £60 million Tesco, so there is new development next to it. It is a piece of Stourbridge history in a good location."

The Savoy closed as a cinema in 1982. Its change to lap-dancing club Heaven attracted fierce criticism from local politicians, while an investigation was launched after claims it breached its licence were made in a Channel 4 documentary.

In 2008, former Stourbridge MP Lynda Walther raised fears that clubs such as Heaven were turning Stourbridge into the 'Soho of the Black Country'. The opening of venues such as Heaven prompted her to push for tighter controls on lap dancing venues, which she achieved.

Stourbridge councillor Steve Clark said he hoped a buyer would be able to make a success of the building but added that it should not be left dormant if there is a lack of interest.

He said: "It is a beautiful old building. If we get the correct investor in there and make it a commercial success I would be happy for it to stay, as long as there is no impact on surrounding businesses."

## ICONIC PARK GATES ARE BACK AS PART OF REVAMP



The ornate gates at Mary Stevens Park, inspired by the gates of Buckingham Palace, are back in place but still need a few finishing touches

A STOURBRIDGE park's famous gates have returned to their rightful home after four months away undergoing restoration work.

The entrance to Mary Stevens Park had looked a little bare since the wrought iron gates were taken away at the end of March, but they were lowered back into place on Saturday in sparkling condition following their makeover.

The Grade II listed gates, which were modelled on the entrance to Buckingham Palace, were given a spruce up as part of a £3 million renovation of the park.

It was the first time the gates had been removed or modified since being installed in 1931. They were put in place after Ernest Stevens dedicated the park, named after his late wife Mary, to the people of Stourbridge.

The revamp will see the park's bandstand restored and the addition of a new cafe, which was being officially opened this week.

Chairman of the Friends of Mary Stevens Park Heather Rogers, who is also a councillor, said: "It's really good to see them back. Since 1998 we have been trying to get the gates restored."

Though the gates have been hung back into the place they have spent the last 84 years, their restoration is not quite complete.

Councillor Rogers added: "There is a lot more work to be done on the gates themselves, such as the gilding."

An old print room and office, previously used by the council, has been transformed into a cafe. Even the wallpaper is special, giving a nod to the park's past, featuring images of its 200-year-old oak tree, the gates, bandstand, and the logo of Ernest Stevens' hollware company, a judge wearing a wig.

## MURDER

### Body in cellar killer is jailed for 25 years

THE family of murder victim Baljit 'Bill' Singh have spoken of their heartbreak over the death of the 50-year-old father, who was killed on his son's ninth birthday. Murderer Stuart Millership, who dumped Mr Singh's body in the cellar of the house in Rowley Regis where he was staying, was this week jailed for 25 years.

The court heard that Millership, 33, was a former tenant of Mr Singh's and claimed his former landlord owed him money, though his family say the opposite was more probable.

● Killed for car — see page 8

## MOSQUE

### Debate starts on controversial plan

MANY people living near the proposed site for the new mosque in Dudley say they don't want it.

Many also say an out-of-court cash settlement offer should be higher, a panel debating the long running saga was told.

Dudley Muslim Association has offered Dudley Council £325,000 to drop court action blocking plans to build the mosque off Hall Street. Arguments for and against accepting the sum were heard by councillors on Monday.

## FIRE

### Mother and son flee blazing house

A MOTHER and her teenage son were forced to flee their Quarry Bank home after a fire broke out.

Two dogs were rescued by firefighters from the property in Thorn Hill Road after a concerned resident dialled 999 after seeing smoking coming from the semi-detached house.

When fire crews arrived at around 6.15pm on Sunday night, they found the family had been able to escape unharmed.

Firefighters wearing breathing apparatus extinguished the blaze which had caused extensive damage. An investigation has been launched by the fire service.

## INSIDE

### IT'S A MUSICAL BLOCKBUSTER



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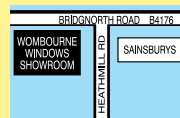
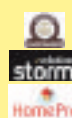
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**EDITORIAL:**  
Tel: 01384 335202  
E-mail: dudley.chrons@expressandstar.co.uk

**SPORTS:**  
Tel: 01902 319453  
E-mail: chron.sport@expressandstar.co.uk

**PHOTOGRAPHIC:**  
Tel: John Sambrooks 01902 319431

**ADVERTISING:** Nicola Cope  
Tel: 01902 319573  
E-mail: nicola.cope@expressandstar.co.uk

**PROPERTY:** Marguerita Finnegan  
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# Man not guilty of attack with bottle

A MAN accused of attacking a woman in a nightclub with a beer bottle has been found not guilty by a jury.

Ashley Barton became involved in a 'melee' after his failed effort to 'pull' beautiful Nicole Hill at Benjamin's nightclub in Halesowen, Wolverhampton Crown Court heard.

Trade plate driver Mr Barton had denied one charge of unlawful wounding. Last week a jury took 46 minutes to deliver a not guilty verdict to the charge.

Throughout the trial, the court heard that Mr Barton, aged 28, of

Barneswood Close, Halesowen, and a group of friends had been to a pub on November 15, 2013, before they headed to the Birmingham Street nightclub just before midnight.

Around 1am Mr Barton started dancing around Miss Hill, but she made it clear she was not interested in him by swearing at him, he said.

While being questioned by Mr Daniel Osof, defending, Mr Barton told the court that Miss Hill flicked him a 'v-sign', then he replied in kind and walked off the dancefloor.

Mr Barton said he was stood near

a table with glasses and bottles on when Miss Hill's mum Lorraine aggressively walked over to him with her arms raised.

"We got into a tussle," he said. "It was like a melee. I saw her hands come up so I put my hands over her."

Within seconds the pair had fallen to the floor, taking glass and bottles from a nearby table with them, Mr Barton said.

Injuries sustained by Mrs Hill and Miss Hill - as well as to Mr Barton's neck and shoulder - must have been caused by shattered glass, he said.

Miss Hill, from Halesowen, was left with a four-inch gash to the back of her head.

Her mother suffered a gash above the left eye, bruises and a cut to the head.

Mr Barton admitted his behaviour on the night 'wasn't great, but I didn't do anything wrong'.

He said his friend Philip White lied about him 'confessing' to the crimes.

After the verdict, Mr Barton said: "There were no winners in this. I'm just relieved it's all over with."

# £4m to pay for urgent repairs at 22 schools

**MORE than £4 million will be spent on carrying out urgent repairs at 22 schools across Dudley borough.**

The council has allocated a total of £4,420,000 to be invested over the next two years on work including replacing old boilers, upgrading fire alarms and installing new windows.

The biggest beneficiary will be Leasowes High School in Halesowen where a total of £850,000 will be spent on mechanical and electrical work and roofing for the school's main building.

The majority of the cost will be covered by Department for Education (DfE) funding, with schools contributing some of the money themselves.

Other projects to be carried out by 2017 include roofing works at The Wordsley School, near Stourbridge costing £365,000; a replacement boiler at Northfield Primary, Netherton costing £350,000; roofing works costing £200,000 at Dawley Brook Primary, Kingswinford; a replacement boiler at Priory Primary, Dudley costing £200,000 and a replacement boiler at Halesbury School in Halesowen also costing £200,000.

As part of Dudley Council's legal requirement to provide sufficient schools, they must also be kept to an adequate standard.

## Impact

Each council-maintained school was asked to submit their top priority. The authority then identified the projects that will have the greatest impact on raising educational standards, while seeking to prevent school closures as a priority.

Other schools set to benefit from repair work in 2015/16 include Gig Mill Primary near Stourbridge; Peters Hill Primary in Brierley Hill; St Margaret's CE Primary in Hasbury; Alder Coppice Primary near Sedgley; Roberts Primary in Lower Gornal; Netherbrook Primary near Cradley Heath and Caslon Primary in Halesowen.

The following year work will be carried out at Church of the Ascension Primary in Wall Heath; The Hillcrest School in Netherton; Dormston School in Sedgley; Lutley Primary in Halesowen; Netherton CE Primary; Howley Grange Primary in Halesowen; Maidensbridge Primary in Wall Heath; Kates Hill Primary in Dudley and Pens Meadow in Wordsley.

## Sacrifice not forgotten after 100 years



At the new memorial stone are chairman of Quarry Bank Royal British Legion Colin Scott, Friends of Quarry Bank Park chairman Councillor David Sparks, secretary Mary Sparks, member Vilma Griffin and Royal British Legion volunteer Savannah Hunt, aged 11, of Brierley Hill

A MEMORIAL honouring the sacrifice made by soldiers from the Black Country during the First World War has been officially unveiled.

Quarry Bank Royal British Legion and the Friends of Quarry Bank Park teamed up to have the memorial created to commemorate the 100th anniversary since the outbreak of the First World War. It honours 147 men from the area who lost their lives in the conflict.

Having been made possible

thanks to a Dudley Council grant of more than £5,000, the monument has been in place in Stevens Park, in Thorns Road, since the spring but was officially dedicated at a special ceremony attended by members of the Royal British Legion and the Friends group.

The service included prayers and a wreath-laying ceremony as the memorial was dedicated by Rev David Hoskins from Christ Church, Quarry Bank; Father Cecil Roger-

son from St Mary's Church, Brier-

ley Hill, and the Rev Mick Ganner. David Sparks, who is a member of the Friends group and a councillor for Quarry Bank, said the memorial was created to signify the impact the loss of life on what was a much smaller community a century ago.

He said: "Quarry Bank at that time was a few streets and the 147 people came from those streets. The idea came from the community and was financed by the community forum."

# Tributes to family man in tragedy at beauty spot

THE devastated family of a man who drowned while trying to retrieve his daughter's ball from a lake has paid tribute to a devoted husband and father of four girls.

Deon Mullings got into difficulty in the water after playing ball games with his daughters on a trip to the Pens Pools nature reserve in Pensnett with his wife Louise on July 19.

When the ball went into the Middle Pool, the father-of-four, aged 35, entered the water to try and retrieve it - but never returned. His terrified wife entered the water but she was unable to find him.

More than half an hour later, Mr Mullings was pulled from the water by rescue divers. Resuscitation attempts were made at the poolside and he was rushed to Birmingham's Queen Elizabeth Hospital, but could not be saved.

His sister-in-law Hayley Walker-Mullings, aged 27, paid tribute, saying: "He was lovely, he was so quiet. He was a devoted father, his life was his wife and kids. He was so family-orientated. It was all about his family."

Dudley Council has said it will launch an investigation following the death as the site is staffed and maintained by the authority.

Mr Mullings was born in Jamaica and had moved to the Black Country around 15 years ago.

The family are planning to return his body to Jamaica and a fundraising page has been set up to make that possible. See [www.gofundme.com/zs6xbcd4s](http://www.gofundme.com/zs6xbcd4s)

# Conversion plan sparks concerns

RESIDENTS have raised concerns over plans to convert a Cradley Heath warehouse into new homes.

Krundi Developments has submitted an application to make changes at the building in Pennant Road.

If approved, the warehouse, which was previously used for offices, would be converted into accommodation with 22 rooms available.

Around a dozen neighbours have lodged objections. They say they have not been informed about what sort of accommodation would be offered at the property, while there are also concerns over parking.

Sandwell Council's planning committee is expected to make a decision on the plans in the coming weeks.

# Curry night is hot stuff for charities

CURRY lovers can help raise money for charity. The Lime restaurant in Sedgley is hosting a special night with music on September 23 when, for £15 per head, people can enjoy a five-course meal with proceeds to the Mayor of Dudley's charities. Call Sue Randall on 07412 531924.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Less than one per cent of art is seen

JUST 80 of more than 10,000 pieces of artwork owned by Dudley Council are on display, with tens of thousands of pieces of fine art and glassware kept in storage.

Less than one per cent of the 2,000 pieces of art and 8,000 pieces of glassware are on show with 50 items displayed in the Council House and 30 at a permanent gallery devoted to Percy Shakespeare. This means 9,920 pieces of art — 99.2 per cent of the collection — are shut away in stockrooms, according to figures obtained through a Freedom of Information request.

Lucky escape from head-on collision

TWO children avoided serious injury after a head-on crash of two cars in Kingswinford.

An Audi A7 and Peugeot 206 were left badly damaged after the smash on Stalling's Lane on Friday.

The drivers of both cars and the children were checked over by paramedics at the scene but nobody had to be taken to hospital.

Debris was left strewn over the road following the crash which happened at around 1.30pm. The road was closed while the cars were removed.

Housing scheme at factory withdrawn

A QUESTION mark hangs over a derelict factory site at Wollescote after plans to transform the site into homes were withdrawn.

Developers had signalled their intention to demolish the former Billinge Holdings site in Careless Green and build 14 homes.

Detailed plans had been presented to Dudley Council in which agent TDF Design said three and four-bedroom homes would be built on the site of the factory, vacant since 2010.

Youngsters are warned against playing on roof

YOUNGSTERS have been playing on the roof of Netherton Arts Centre, prompting a warning from police.

Neighbourhood officers have been leading a crackdown against anti-social behaviour in the town.

Among the concerns raised by residents has been young people playing on the roof of the arts centre in Northfield Road.

Among other concerns are people begging near the shops in Halesowen Road.

Pedestrian injured

A WOMAN aged in her 60s was taken to hospital after she was hit by a car in Stourbridge.

The accident happened on The Broadway in Norton last week.

She was treated for a fractured leg and head cuts, police said, and was taken to Queen Elizabeth Hospital.

Hippodrome — knock it down, says councillor

A DEBATE was held to discuss the future of Dudley landmark, the Hippodrome theatre on Castle Hill.

Dudley Council leader Pete Lowe wants a deadline of September for interested parties to submit proposals for the under-threat site. It comes after Wolverhampton-based entertainment group, Rok pulled out of a £8 million deal to acquire, revamp and run the theatre when agreement could not be reached on sharing use of Dudley Zoo's car park.

At the meeting last week, Conservative councillor Les Jones dismissed moves by campaigners to save the building and run it as a venue again.

He said: "I don't believe for one minute that we can bring in the kind of numbers to make that venue viable. We should do what we were originally do — knock it down, level it."

UKIP councillor Dean Perk, who proposed the council debate, disagreed, saying: "I think we as a council need to exhaust every possible avenue we can."

"The Hippodrome is located in what is a growing part of the town. To drive investment into the town we can give people a reason to come into the town."

"I think to have the Hippodrome there with all the infrastructure there, hotels and Castlegate Park, we have a package for people to attend Dudley for the weekend."

Speaking after the meeting, Friends of Dudley Hippodrome group chairman Gordon Downing said: "It is a shame we could not speak. We will see where we go from here."

You were our hero: tribute to father

A TELECOMS engineer who died after he was hit by a car as he worked at the roadside was a father who had married just a week earlier.

Matthew Harding, a 27-year-old Virgin Media worker from Oldbury, was working on a communications box at the junction of Jack Holden Avenue and Robert Wynd in Coseley with a colleague, when both hit by a Citroen Picasso on Monday, July 20.

His wife Danielle, who was by his side when he died in hospital, made this tribute: "Our worlds have been completely broken. Me and the boys miss you like crazy and love you — you were our hero."

Two 16-year-old boys were arrested on suspicion of dangerous driving and have been released on police bail.

Kinver's a maze in crop formations

A CROP maze has been created at a Kinver farm.

The Maize Maze at Kinver Edge Farm and Shop opened on Saturday and will be open each day from 9.30am to 5pm.

Brave mother didn't want to upset family



Tracey Jones from Stourbridge

A BRAVE Stourbridge hairdresser delayed telling her family she had terminal cancer in a bid to protect them, an inquest heard.

Tracey Jones, of Queensway, did not immediately tell her husband and children after finding out that cancer had spread through her body.

An inquest heard the 44-year-old wanted to wait until she had more information to give them but died following a biopsy operation on her liver.

The inquest at Smethwick Council House heard from Dr Philip Brammer, consultant respiratory physician at Rus-

sells Hall Hospital, who said a CT scan was arranged after she was admitted on July 14. "When she got the scan back we were quite shocked that the changes were as extensive as they were," he said.

Dr Brammer said liver damage suggested a further cancer and it was highly likely her bone marrow had been infiltrated. He told her family: "From my conversations with Tracey it appeared she had every intention of telling you but she wanted time to make sure she knew exactly what was going on. She wanted to tell you herself when everything was in process."

The inquest heard a biopsy was necessary to confirm the type of tumour. But soon after it was performed on July 21 her condition deteriorated and she died.

Assistant Coroner David Urpeth recorded a narrative verdict saying: "Mrs Jones died on July 21 of a hepatic hepatoma after a liver biopsy." He added: "Mrs Jones was clearly very brave and decided she wanted to pick the right time to talk to her family."

Mrs Jones leaves husband Chris, daughters Catherine and Stephanie and Stevie and Jessica, who she also considered her children.

Council are planning to sell off Broadfield House

BROADFIELD House Glass Museum faces closure as part of multi-million pound proposals for a new attraction in the borough.

The move comes around six years after a high profile campaign was fought to keep the Kingswinford venue open.

Plans are in the pipeline to create a £5 million glass museum at Wordsley's White House Glass Cone site, once home to Stuart Crystal.

But now it has emerged officials are considering selling Grade II-listed Georgian building Broadfield House to use the cash to contribute towards the costs of building the new museum.

Broadfield House, bought by Staffordshire County Council in the 1940s and transferred to Dudley in the '60s, was officially opened as a glass museum by Princess Michael of Kent in 1980.

Ward councillors were told in briefing documents that the museum would close by the end of the year, under proposals. Its collections would be mothballed at the closed museum, in Compton Drive, for up to nine months.

But the council refused to be drawn on the closure plan when questioned by The Chronicle's sister newspaper the Express & Star, saying only that plans had not yet been confirmed.

Discussions

A document from Stuart Connelly, Dudley's head of attractions and amenities, dated July 21, said: "BHGM (Broadfield House Glass Museum) will close later this year to enable the property to be placed on the open market. The proceeds of sale will be used as the council's contribution towards the cost of the new museum project. The intention is that the new collection will remain at BHGM for a period of six to nine months while it is fully catalogued in readiness for the move to the new museum."

"During this period the collection will not be available to view by the public."

Dudley Council UKIP group leader Paul Brothwood said: "I think that it is great for Wordsley to have the new museum. But it is very disappointing that Broadfield House would close. More discussions are needed."

Councillor Khurshid Ahmed, who is in charge of development, said: "The White House Cone, opposite the Red House Glass Cone in Wordsley, will be a purpose-built museum with better access and facilities. It will tell the story of Stourbridge glass-making as well as house our historic glass collection."



Former Desert Rat Bill Richards, aged 99, from Sedgley, still attends fitness sessions every week at Age UK's activity centre in Brierley Hill

Desert Rat Bill keeps fit aged 99

AT the age of 99 Bill Richards is showing no signs of slowing down.

Each week, without fail, he gets on the ring-and-ride service from his home in Sedgley to attend keep fit sessions at Brierley Hill to make sure he stays in shape.

It would be understandable if Bill wanted to put his feet up but he is having none of it.

He is the oldest client at the Age UK's activity centre at The Waterfront in Brierley Hill, where he has been taking part in fitness sessions for the last 11 years.

He takes part in sit-down exercises, stretches and works with weights.

As someone who served with The Desert Rats during the Second World War, Bill, who will turn 100 next June, has always made sure he keeps himself in shape.

Having lived alone for almost 20 years, twice-married Bill says the weekly workout gives him something to look forward to.

"I've been on my own since 1997 so it gets me out and about. I've made a lot of friends," said Bill.

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# THE BEST OF PETER RHODES



FASCINATING to discover that the re-opened war tunnels at Dover were dug out of the cliffs in just 100 days in 1940. Nowadays you wouldn't even get planning permission in 100 days.

TONY Blair, that globe-trotting pillar of integrity and freelance peace-bringer, declares that Labour can win the next General Election, but not if it is led by left-winger Jeremy Corbyn. Blair misses the point. He was always utterly focused on getting elected, winning power and becoming a world figure. Not all Labour Party members share his ambition, for they know it is almost impossible to create a socialist society within a market economy. Some would genuinely prefer a pure Labour Party in opposition rather than a tainted party in power. Corbyn will never be a prime minister but he is a valuable rallying point for thousands of anti-nuke, anti-war, anti-market, anti-Establishment Brits who regard themselves as the nation's Guardian-reading conscience and are happy to exclaim: "Dammit, we've lost another general election, thank God."

AND hasn't Blair gone grey suddenly? Do you think he's seen the Chilcot Report?

THERE was much agonising in the last series of University Challenge (BBC2) about the shortage of female team members. As Jeremy Paxman put it during the closing stages: "Why on earth are there no women left in this stage of the competition?" It is a puzzle. Maybe the women do



not push themselves forward during the team-selection process. Maybe they are concentrating on their studies. Maybe they avoid the company of geeks, poseurs and oddballs and have no desire to be Twitter-trolled. Anyway, this week's contest saw just one female team member. She was in the winning Liverpool University team and she spoke precisely one word in the entire 30 minutes – "knuckles," being the common name for a Latin medical term.

FOR some fervent nationalists, part of the joy of getting an independent Scotland is leaving the rest of the UK with a really crummy name. Some suggest RUK, meaning the Remainder of the UK. Others suggest an abbreviation meaning the Former UK (and guess those initials). This week one emailer suggested EWNl, standing for England, Wales and Northern Ireland. It ain't going to happen. Even if Scotland, Wales and Ulster all quit, England would remain the United Kingdom of Mercia, Northumbria, Wessex and East Anglia, or UK for short. And our flag would still be the Union Jack. Because it is. Because we like it.

**Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star**

# Extra jobs as £4.5m invested in firm

A HI-TECH business in Kingswinford is to recruit 20 new staff over the next 12 months after winning a £4.5 million investment from the Business Growth Fund.

The investment in Simworx, a designer and supplier of advanced theme park attractions, will also enable it to buy RoboCoaster, the Warwickshire-based innovator behind some of the most successful rides.

Part of the funding will be used to double the size of the Simworx production plant in Second Avenue and increase its demonstration facilities.

The business will also add to its existing 30 employees by recruiting the new members of staff including designers, engineers and administrative staff.

Established by Terry Monkton and Andrew Roberts in 2005, Simworx

created the Angry Birds 4D cinema at Thorpe Park, near London, for Merlin Entertainments.

## Simulator

The firm was again chosen by Merlin to develop and deliver one of the main attractions at Shrek's Adventure theme park, which opened in London in July. The ride is based on Simworx's Immersive Tunnel,

where guests board a themed motion simulator and are surrounded by a 360 degree, 3D cinema screen and immersed in lighting, sound, smells and weather effects.

Simworx's first Immersive Tunnel ride, The Lost Temple, was delivered to Movie Park Germany in May 2014. Since then the business has secured further orders and has been in talks with theme parks across the world.

# More midwives taken on to tackle shortage

by Heather Large

**SIXTEEN midwives have been recruited to meet a shortage at Russells Hall Hospital and reduce the need for agency staff.**

The hospital said it has a shortage of experienced staff with the number of vacant posts rising to around 19 recently.

A recruitment drive was launched to boost the number of midwives in the maternity unit.

Deputy chief nurse Yvonne O'Connor said the vacancies followed staff leaving for a variety of reasons, including moving to a different area of the country or joining specialist teams.

Ms O'Connor said agency staff has been considered to fill the vacancies in the short-term but there were concerns that they lacked the full range of skills required.

The recruits are due to start in September – although the unit would still be considered short-staffed until they had settled in to the roles, particularly as many were newly-qualified midwives and would need support.

The hospital trust said it would continue to use community and specialist midwives as well as its own staff to cover the shortage.

A report by Ms O'Connor, which went before members of the hospital trust board, said: "Midwifery vacancies have risen to around 19 whole-time equivalents. Realistically staffing shortages are expected until October/November, particularly as a high percentage of the recruited staff will be newly qualified midwives who will require additional support."

Chief executive Paula Clark said: "Following recent interviews, 16 midwives – 13.8 whole time equivalents – were offered positions at the trust. Recruitment to the maternity unit is on-going. We will continue to use the trust's staff bank, as well as community and specialist midwives, to cover short-term vacancies."

The hospital is also recruiting 55 nurses as part of a £3.1 million investment.

## MP praises work of dedicated teacher



Waving goodbye – teacher Sue Hanning worked at St Edmund and St John Primary School in Dudley for 43 years

A POPULAR teacher has retired after 43 years teaching at the same Dudley school. Sue Hanning first started teaching at St Edmund and St John Primary School, in Beechwood Road, at the age of 21.

During her career her pupils have included Dudley North MP Ian Austin, who was among well-wishers at her retirement assembly.

Ms Hanning, aged 64, of Bridgnorth, said: "Part of me is really emotional and sad, as teaching has been a huge part of my life. I have taught many children who now tell me that I taught their parents and even grandparents. Even though I don't live in this area I feel like I've become part of the community and that is something I will genuinely miss."

Mr Austin, who was taught by Sue in the 1970s, gave a speech paying tribute to her work and encouraged pupils to set themselves high ambitions.

He said: "I'm delighted to be able to come back to my old school and pay tribute to Sue's contribution to generations of children in Dudley. I think we should do much more to praise the work of brilliant teachers like Sue who do their best for every child they teach."

She spoke of how she intends researching her family tree and spending more time with family. She said: "During my career I have never really had any time off, and I only had six and a half months maternity leave before returning to school, so I'm looking forward to spending time with my daughter Becky, who is now 29."

# Failure to complete work order means jail

A MAN is behind bars after breaching his community order by not turning up to complete an unpaid work order.

John Williams, of Fens Crescent, Brierley Hill, appeared at Wolverhampton Crown Court after failing to attend his unpaid tasks on both November 13 last year and January 18 this year.

The 22-year-old had completed 60 of the 140 hours of unpaid work required, but had 11 failures to attend on his record and had attended only 10 of the 31 appointments given to him by probation. An extra 20 hours' unpaid work had already been added to his order for non-compliance.

The order was part of his sentence for criminal damage, after a 'drunk and aggressive' Williams had smashed three windows and a door at the Kingfisher Country Club, in Kidderminster Road, Kingswinford, on January 11 last year.

Mr Harpreet Sandhu, defending, said Williams had been working seven days at week at the time of the breaches but had completed 60.45 of the required hours.

Williams had been told at an appearance at Wolverhampton Crown Court in May that if he failed to comply with the order again he would go to prison.

Recorder Barry Berlin said: "You were given several chances and you failed to comply. There is no excuse for it."

Williams was sent to prison for six weeks.

## £1.8m modern pet hospital opening

DOORS have closed at a pet hospital in the West Midlands after 54 years as a replacement site in Oldbury opens.

The PDSA's pet hospital on Hagley Road in Quinton closed last week but a new £1.8 million facility was due to open on St Matthews Road yesterday (Wednesday).

Sue Hanke, PDSA's client services manager, said: "It's emotional, as we have so many happy memories of this place, but it's time to move on."

"With so many more pets now needing our charitable service, we desperately need more room and modernised facilities."

The new hospital, named after benefactors, is The Marian and Christina Ionescu Centre of Surgical Excellence and has state-of-the-art operating theatres and a critical care ward.

## It's back to the fuchsia at annual flower show

THE Black Country Fuchsia Society has a new venue for its annual show.

It is being held at The Hub, Griffiths Drive, Wednesfield, on Saturday from 12.30pm to 5pm. The society has been going for more than 30 years and meets monthly, except for December.

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## Retail venture open for hospice

THE former WH Smith store in Dudley town centre is being transformed into a charity shop and is due to open tomorrow (Friday).

Mary Stevens Hospice is launching its new store at the corner of High Street and Wolverhampton Road, which the Mayor of Dudley will officially open.

Hospice chief executive Stevan Jackson, said: "It is great news that this store marks a return to Dudley for Mary Stevens Hospice."

The WH Smith shop closed in 2013. The unit has been empty ever since.

## Children sign up for summer reads

ALMOST 700 youngsters across Dudley have signed up to this year's Summer Reading Challenge.

The scheme encourages children to read six books during the school summer holidays.

Children who joined the challenge at the Dudley, Halesowen and Stourbridge main libraries were counted towards a Guinness World Record attempt for the most pledges for a reading campaign in the UK and Ireland.

Children at Dormston School were some of the first to sign up. Visit [www.summerreadingchallenge.org.uk](http://www.summerreadingchallenge.org.uk)

## Songs from shows to help disabled

MUSICAL friends from Kingswinford are putting on a concert for charity helping the disabled.

The show called 'A Musical Send Off' is at The Crestwood School, Bromley Lane, on August 5. Proceeds will go towards Disability In Action.

Adam Smith, one of the performers, said: "It will be a sit down event with lots of familiar songs from the musicals that everyone can join in with."

Doors will open 6.30pm and tickets cost £5. Call 07889473452.

## Help with tracing the roots of family trees

PEOPLE interested in tracing their family tree can join a weekly ancestry group in the Black Country.

Members meet at Tipton Library in Unity Walk, Owen Street, every Friday from 10am until noon.

Advice is available to anyone starting the process of tracing their roots. Admission is free.

For further information call 0121 557 1796 or email [tipton\\_library@sandwell.gov.uk](mailto:tipton_library@sandwell.gov.uk)

## Tenants group meeting

CORBYNS Bromley Tenants and Residents' Association's next public meeting is on Monday evening, August 3. It is at Pensnett Bromley Senior Citizens Club, Tiled House Lane, Pensnett, from 7pm. There will also be a Dudley Council housing clinic from 6.30pm.

## Stolen car chop shop pair have been jailed

TWO men who ran a Black Country chop shop, found to include three stolen cars worth almost £50,000 when raided by police, have been jailed.

One car was partly dismantled with the serial numbers on the chassis and other parts scratched off, Wolverhampton Crown Court heard.

The others were whole and one of these – a VW Golf – had been stolen from a pizza delivery driver just eight hours earlier, revealed Mr Richard Davenport, prosecuting.

The Golf had a tracker device which led police to the lock-up unit in Ezekeil Lane, Short Heath, Willenhall. Nobody was there when officers arrived on February 19 last year but it had been rented by Tony Cook and Gregory Taylor a month earlier.

Inside was the Golf – stolen in Dudley the previous night – a £30,000 Audi taken during a car key burglary in Wolverhampton and a £15,000 Skoda Octavia stolen from Alastair Norman whilst he was opening the gate to Dudley Rifle Club on February 5.

Mr Norman, aged 59, jumped onto the bonnet in a bid to stop the theft and was badly bruised when thrown off. His .22 rifle he had used for 40 years was in the stolen vehicle and never recovered.

Father-of-two Cook, a 35-year-old roofer, of Stroud Avenue, Willenhall, and Taylor, also a family man, from Spills Meadow, Lower Gornal, both admitted three cases of handling stolen property and were each jailed for two years.

## Tickets selling fast for charity ball

PEOPLE are being urged to get their tickets fast for a charity ball being organised by Miss Black Country, Jade Secker.

The 24-year-old from Wombourne is hosting the Black Country Ball on Friday, August 7, at The Village Hotel, in Castlegate Park, Dudley.

Creators of the Black Country anthem, The Empty Can, will be performing alongside comedians Jonny Cole and Marlene. The event features a two course Black Country buffet.

"I wanted to do something that would help bring people together and help raise money for charity," said Jade. Cash will go to children's charity Beauty with a Purpose. Tickets cost £20. Call 07707 626786 or email [missblackcountry@hotmail.com](mailto:missblackcountry@hotmail.com)

## Girls' school pupils planning a reunion

A REUNION is being planned for pupils to reminisce 50 years after they were classmates. The event in October is for the 84 pupils who started at Dudley Girls' High School in 1965. Call Nicky Dodd on 01405 760113.

# Drug dealer told this is his last chance

A DRUG dealer has been warned he has one last chance to put his life in order before getting a lengthy jail term.

Paul Sanders resorted to dealing after he lost his job and his life 'went off the rails spectacularly', Wolverhampton Crown Court heard.

The 41-year-old pleaded guilty to two counts of possessing a Class A drug with intent to supply, one count of possessing a Class C substance and one count of acquiring criminal property.

Mr Howard Searle, prosecuting, said police executed a warrant at Sanders' home on January 16 at 6.30am. Officers found five wraps each of heroin and crack cocaine ready for street deals.

They also found a small amount of buprenorphine

for Sanders's own use, three 'dealer lists' and a mobile phone. Text messages on the phone were 'indicative of drug dealing, from December 8 to December 23', Mr Searle said.

In 2004 Sanders was jailed for 13 months for supplying heroin to an undercover police officer.

### Lowest

Miss Sarah Allen, defending, said: "This is street dealing at its very lowest level. The very small quantities of drugs found on him demonstrate he is dealing to fund his own habit."

"The text messages on his phone started with him asking to purchase drugs, then moving on to selling them onwards."

# Homes are targeted by recycling campaign

A CAMPAIGN to boost recycling is to be launched by Dudley Council with teams going door-to-door in areas that have been targeted by bosses desperate to increase participation by residents.

Environmental chiefs say people living in less affluent areas are apparently disinterested in recycling.

The council said it was proud of its record in terms of recycling but that it was 'imperative' that take-up increases. They hope the new campaign in problem areas will help convince residents of the benefits of recycling.

Households which partially recycle or ignore the practice altogether will be seen as the priority by Dudley Council, which has not named specific areas being targeted.

Bosses are also planning a social media campaign in the hope of convincing more young people to recycle their waste.

Dudley residents have been asked to increase their recycling in recent years, with various bins and bags rolled out to homes to separate waste. The majority of households have complied with the request.

Various methods of collecting household waste to be recycled have been investigated. The council said the existing black box and two re-usable bags are efficient and economical. Paper and cardboard in placed in a blue bag and plastic bottles and cans in a green bag. Prior to 2013, the majority of households were using one 55 litre box for paper, cans and glass.

### Discuss

A council report said residents living in poor-performing areas would be visited individually to discuss the subject.

Dudley Council's environment boss Hilary Bills said: "We work hard to encourage residents to share our passion for recycling and thankfully, many do, which is why our recycling rates continue to grow."

"We have extended our kerbside recycling opportunities across the borough, and this has been welcomed by people."

"We will be looking at a wider piece of work to improve communications with our residents and identify reasons why some people find it difficult to recycle."

Figures released earlier this year showed that although around half of households in the Black Country were recycling, the total was still lagging behind the national average.

## Grateful father's charity trek



Outside the children's hospital is Jason Addison, right, with supporters including son Scott, second from left

A DETERMINED fundraiser will trek 150km along the Great Wall of China to raise cash for the hospital that saved his son.

Jason Addison is taking on the challenge for Birmingham Children's Hospital's oncology unit.

The unit cared for his son Scott who was diagnosed with leukaemia aged four and treated for three years at the hospital.

Director of Addison Tyres in Tipton, Mr Addison, of Somerset

Way, Coseley, said: "They saved my son's life so we will be forever in their debt."

The trek starts on September 13 in Beijing when Mr Addison and a group of other intrepid fundraisers will wind their way along the iconic Great Wall.

Scott, who beat cancer, is due to turn 21 later this year.

Mr Addison, who broke his knee cap in a cycling accident two years ago, said: "The trip is self-funded,

so all money donated will go directly to the Birmingham Children's Hospital Ward 15 oncology unit."

He is also selling raffle tickets to raise funds. Tickets are £5 from Addison Tyres in Tipton, Street-bike cafe in Halesowen and Staffs Builders Supplies in Tipton.

Mr Addison is hoping to raise a total of £10,000 during the trek. See [www.justgiving.com/addison-tyres-china-trek](http://www.justgiving.com/addison-tyres-china-trek)

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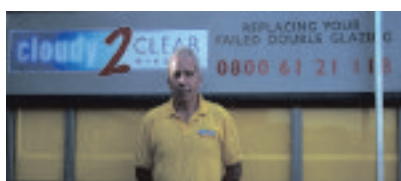
Managing Director Brian Stanley feels that it's all about service. "Our product is simple. If your double glazing is misted up we can replace the glass at a fraction of the cost of a new window, in any type of frame, and with a new 5 year guarantee. But it's not just about saving people

money, although that obviously helps. Many tradespeople have struggled since last year and I honestly feel that during the good times a minority perhaps didn't focus on customer care as much as they should have done.

We make sure we turn up when we say we will, do the job the customer requires and leave their house as clean as a whistle. I often get comments back from customers on how they really didn't expect that sort of service which, in a way, is very sad for the service industry as a whole."

Cloudy2Clear service Wolverhampton and the surrounding

area and Brian is finding that his approach is a major factor in his success. "The truth is that it's not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people



I've done work for, which just goes to show how much a little bit of effort is appreciated."

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## IN MY VIEW

with Mark Andrews



# Way out in front for sitting on backsides

GIVEN the paucity of achievement in British sport at the moment, I suppose I really ought to congratulate Chris Froome on becoming the first Briton to win the Tour de France twice.

But I really can't get excited by a sport that revolves around strangely dressed men navigating the countryside via an outdated form of transport.

And then there's the Lycra and leg shaving. I know it's all about comfort and aerodynamics, how in this precision sport the competitors will do anything to give them the edge, but it's not right, is it? The sport has done its bit to stamp out performance-enhancing drugs. It now needs to look at performance-enhancing weirdness.

Still, it has taught us a lot about British sport this summer. We are not that good at cricket. We are not too hot at tennis. And we've known for a long time we're not much cop at football. But when it comes to sports which involve sitting on one's backside, we are way out in front.

A FEW years ago, while patiently waiting for my goods in a well-known catalogue store, I saw something quite shocking.

A short distance away stood the archetypal chav family. Mouthy adults, screaming children, dodgy sportswear, the full shebang.

Anyway, baby was screaming so loudly that even father chav – or maybe grandad chav, he looked over 30 – decided enough was enough. Removing the newborn's bottle from the back of the super-sized pushchair, he unscrewed the teat to fill it. With Vimto.

By now this particular infant will doubtless have morphed into one of those obese children we keep reading about, the reason the Government is now looking at the possibility of a 'sugar tax' to discourage unhealthy lifestyles.

At the same time, talk of alcohol pricing is back on the agenda. The argument goes that, because these clean-living people generally enjoy better-than-average health, they think it is okay to enjoy a little tittle every day. And why not? If people are in good health by virtue of eating sensibly, not smoking and getting sufficient exercise, where's the harm in a glass of wine or beer with dinner?

The sort of people who see no wrong in feeding fizzy pop to a new-born baby are unlikely to be unduly careful with their money. Sticking 20p on the price of fizzy drinks will change nothing.

Similarly, the binge drinkers who spend Friday and Saturday nights spewing up in the gutter will carry on tipping ghastly lager and vile alcopops down their throats, irrespective of a government minimum pricing policy. All it will mean is that the sensible, moderate consumer will be hit in the pocket again. Like they always are.



Niki Zakeri, an engineer and teaching assistant



College head of technology Andrew Cartwright



Alucast engineering apprentice Sarah Fathers, aged 17

# It's a man's job, but any girl could do it

Females are proving that anything blokes can do, they can do just as well. **KIMBERLEY CRAYTON-BROWN** reports

**IT is almost a century since women got the vote, and more than 35 years since Mr Thatcher took the helm at Number 10 as the UK's first female prime minister.**

But despite the great strides taken in so many areas, there are still those who need convincing that women really can do anything men can do – particularly when it comes to work in the trades industry.

It is something, however, that is gradually improving, according to Andrew Cartwright, head of technology at City of Wolverhampton College.

In the five years he has been in the role he says the number of females in industrial courses is on the up.

In engineering, women make up about 19 per cent of the roll, with construction sitting at 12 per cent – an improvement of the three to four per cent when he first took the job, with the lowest uptake in trades, including construction, bricklaying, and carpentry.

## Traditional

To get the message across women working in trades are now going into schools and speak to younger girls about just what a career as an engineer or a carpenter might entail, showing them a positive role model in the industry.

He said: "We get the message out that there are jobs out there – and well-paid jobs – other than the more traditional women-only route."

Female students of his have gone on to jobs with JLR and Carillion, high-profile jobs running sites and teams, he says: "There are good jobs out there for them."

"I think young girls who are nine or 10 realise they can do anything. I think the message has got to get across to teachers and parents."

It is the parents and teachers, women in



Wolverhampton College Mechanical Engineering student Georgina Hordell

their 30s, 40, 50s, who the college is targeting as part of a 'two-pronged' attack.

In September the college will kick off the first of its 'women only' courses, weekly classes held over the course of 10 weeks in car maintenance and home DIY. Mr Cartwright says these are skills that would not have been taught to girls at school decades ago, as they were still seen as boys' jobs.

Each course will teach basic skills, and Mr Cartwright hopes that by teaching older women these skills, they will see they are just as capable as men, and encourage younger girls to give it a go whether they be their relatives, pupils, or friends.

There is no minimum age on the course, as long as those under 16 are accompanied by a parent. Participants will be assessed, earning a certificate on completion as well as a tool kit so they can keep up with their new trade skills.

And for those who are keen to build on their newfound handiwork, they can move on to one of the longer, accredited courses and work towards a job in the industry.

As far as the old argument that women don't have the muscle for trades jobs, Mr Cartwright says that isn't an issue.

"A woman can pick up a brick exactly the same way a man can. A woman can use maths in exactly the same way a man can. And some of my female engineers would say better than a man can."

"Women are very capable of doing all of the jobs men can do."

However, it may be that employers are lagging a bit behind when it comes to getting the message. One student who is nearing the end of her studies is Georgina Hordell, aged 18, of Heath Town, who has almost completed a two-year BTEC Level 3 Extended Diploma

in Manufacturing Engineering. Sending out her CV in the hopes of scoring a job, she is already finding it tough going as a woman in a male-dominated industry.

She says: "I have been to so many job interviews. Most of the interviewers we get put with are male, and I think they feel like we aren't going to be super-strong for the job, you need a lot of physical muscle for it depending on what type of job you get."

At one group interview, Georgina was one of just three women out of 35 applicants.

She feels in those situations there is more pressure on female job hopefuls to be vocal and show they can step up and be leaders.

And while there is a lot of focus on whether women are strong enough, Georgina thinks women have advantages over their male counterparts: "We are faster learners, we can solve mathematical questions quickly – we are more mentally strong."

## Class

Inspired by her father and grandfather, who both work with cars, she wanted to do something slightly different and signed up for the college course with the aim of working as an electrical engineer.

A lot of people are surprised when they find out what she is studying, she says, and she is the only girl in her class of 16 students.

Also forging a career in engineering is Sarah Fathers, from Tipton, who is a year into her five-year apprenticeship with Alucast in Wednesbury.

The 17-year-old, who studies through the college, had initially planned to study architecture until a teacher suggested engineering.

"I don't regret it," she said. "It has opened my eyes to what I want to do and there are lots of opportunities in my workplace, from maintenance to productivity and quality."

And while the University of Wolverhampton does not offer any 'women-only' courses, figures show the number of female students taking courses traditionally seen as male is on the rise.

Niki Zakeri, an engineer and teaching assistant at the university, believes showing women the practical side of the role – getting them out into workplaces – could be the key to increasing their numbers in the industry.

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# Flag critic should make an apology Stadium no threat to climate

I READ with disbelief and anger at how anyone can say our Black Country flag is offensive. Anti-racism campaigner Patrick Vernon said the chains on the flag are a disturbing image and in America it would be seen as the equivalent of the Confederate Flag.

The Black Country is proud of its chain, nail and glass making heritage, and as Patrick Vernon was brought up in Wolverhampton he knows full well of the Black Country's industrial heritage. Why does Sandwell Council's Darren Cooper feel the

need to invite him to visit? There's no need to, he grew up in Wolverhampton so he already knows it.

The only way I would want him to come here was because he was going to apologise to an innocent child for trying to twist the design of her lovely flag into something only he can see. Shame on him and well done to Gracie Sheppard for our lovely Black Country flag. If he still lives in London I hope he stays there

**MA BEASLEY**  
Netherton

## Manor Way needs a crossing

AS a regular user of the A456 Manor Way, I would like to express my concern about the continued absence of a safe means of crossing the dual carriage-way between Manor Lane and Grange roundabout.

The A456 acts as a barrier to crossing from one side to the other, inhibiting the ability of people to get out into the countryside towards Illey using the foot-path network and walk from the east side of the road to Sandvik or into Halesowen.

People are hindered from accessing the facilities at the cycling, athletics and tennis clubs, the westbound bus stop, petrol station and the public house.

Whilst I accept that a signalised crossing would be costly, it would provide a safe means of access across this busy road as well as helping with speed reduction.

Can I ask, through your newspaper, that the council reconsider their position on a safe crossing provision as a matter of urgency?

**R FINCH**  
Harborne

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### POST

Dudley Chronicle,  
Chronicle Editorial,  
51-53 Queen Street  
Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES

### EMAIL

dudley.chrons@  
expressandstar.co.uk

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

## Don't blame the workers for strikes

WE are beginning to glimpse the true face of Mr Cameron's government. Their stated intentions to make strikes virtually impossible is a disgraceful attack upon the rights of working population.

Having seen life from both sides of the management-worker divide, I can assure you that employees only consider strike action as an absolutely final option. Invariably, strikes mean that employees lose substantial amounts of money during industrial disputes.

This despicable government has no understanding of industrial relations. Whenever a dispute arises, the Conservatives always presume that the workforce is to blame but the threat of

strike action should be seen as a possible indicator of poor management.

I have encountered many senior managers whom I consider to be completely devoid of any management skills. This is backed up by the fact that output per hour in Britain is much lower than in most of the developed world. It has nothing to do with education and skills gaps but everything to do with poor management. The message from this government is that managers can continue to be poor motivators but if the workers complain they won't get anywhere. The worst managers of all are the government.

**M CLIFF**  
Wall Heath

## I'm sorry for delaying train

I WOULD like to thank all the very kind, efficient and caring people who were present on Platform 3 of Stourbridge Station on Tuesday, July 14, at 4.45pm when I fell descending from the train.

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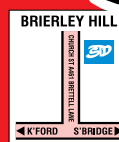
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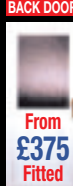
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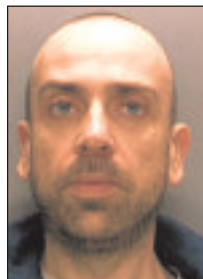
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# Family speak after killer is jailed



Devastated – Baljit Singh's brothers Jasraj, Gurprit, Amrit and Sundip with sister Pritpal outside court



Murderer Stuart Millership



Victim Baljit 'Bill' Singh



After the discovery – Beeches Road, Rowley Regis, where Mr Singh's body was found in a cellar

**A DEPRAVED killer has been jailed for at least 25 years for murdering a friend and leaving his body in a cellar.**

Stuart Millership 'completely lost it' when Baljit 'Bill' Singh refused to give him his £15,000 Range Rover in settlement of an alleged debt.

The 33-year-old was high on cocaine when he savagely battered the 50-year-old over the head up to 20 times with a blunt instrument – possibly a short iron bar like a wheel brace – in a house in Beeches Road, Rowley Regis, where the defendant was living.

Mr Singh, whose hands were broken as he frantically tried to fend off the blows, was then stabbed in the neck and either fell or was pushed down the stairs into the cellar where Millership hid the body.

It was discovered by police on New Year's Day, nine days after the murder and less than 24 hours after Millership had been arrested on suspicion of stealing Mr Singh's Range Rover from his home in Harborne.

Detective Inspector Warren Hines said: "He is a cold, calculating, greedy criminal and really dangerous man."

"His only thoughts were for himself and what he wanted. This is vividly illustrated by the way he dealt with Baljit after murdering

him. He threw him away like a piece of rubbish. He really is depraved."

Sentencing the killer at Wolverhampton Crown Court on Monday, Judge John Warner said Millership 'completely lost it' when the victim refused to settle the alleged debt.

He said: "Only you know what happened and what conversation passed beforehand. I am sure the Range Rover and money figured large. You got both by killing him."

"You completely lost it and carried out a sustained, frenzied, murderous attack as the victim tried in vain to protect himself."

The version given by the defendant, who had pleaded guilty to the murder on the basis that he played a minor role in the attack with

two Albanians delivering the fatal blows, was dismissed by the court.

Judge Warner concluded: "You had a clear motive for an argument and far worse."

The devastated family of Mr Singh afterwards spoke of the terrible burden his nine-year-old son will have to carry for the rest of his life.

Amrit Singh, one of the four brothers of the victim who also has a sister, told how joy swiftly changed to anguish and worry when Baljit did not return for his beloved son Roman's ninth birthday party after going out to collect a birthday cake.

He continued: "The cake never arrived back at the home address and neither did Baljit.

Little did we know that he had already left us.

"Day by day our hearts were aching in disbelief he had not returned home. Our efforts over the days between Christmas and New Year intensified as we shared in the search for Baljit. A glimmer of hope came when his car was found. It was something for us all to hang on to and believe he was still alive."

"On New Year's Day we were given the devastating news that he had been the victim of an act of evil and had been murdered."

Speaking on behalf of the family, Mr Singh said: "As an only child Roman spent all his time with his father, his dad was his best friend. How can he ever make sense of losing his dad?"

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# Knife crime is down by half over six years

**KNIFE crime in the West Midlands has fallen every year for the last six years, figures show.**

Offences have gone down by around half involving the possession of a knife or an offensive weapon resulting in a caution or sentence, according to the Ministry of Justice (MoJ).

Latest statistics show that there were 870 such crimes resulting in cautions or sentences in the 12 months to March this year. This compares with 1,796 over the same period from 2008/9 according to the Government department. The 870 crimes show a fall from 935 on 2013/14.

MoJ officials say there are currently 36 knife crimes per 100,000 population every year in the West Midlands. This is lower than areas like Cleveland at 55 per 100,000, London which is 47 per 100,000 and Durham at 45 per 100,000.

Detective Chief Inspector Kath Davis said: "West Midlands Police has invested heavily in campaigns and operations to tackle knife crime across the region over the past ten years, which has led to a significant decrease over time in the number of offences recorded."

It comes as the latest stage of a knife amnesty campaign is taking place across Bilston.

## Banks

Knife banks have been installed in the town as part of the British Ironwork Centre's 'Save A Life, Surrender A Knife' campaign. The British Ironwork Centre, based in Shropshire, plans to use the knives to create a monument at London's Trafalgar Square commemorating stabbing victims.

The family of Halesowen schoolgirl Christina Edkins have backed the knife bank campaign.

The 16-year-old was fatally stabbed in Birmingham in 2013 while travelling on a bus to Leasowes High School. Her killer, paranoid schizophrenic Phillip Simelane, of Walsall, was sentenced to an indeterminate hospital order.

## Bravo for young ballerina



**It's a dream come true for Hannah Beech, aged eight, who will be training among British ballet's best youngsters at Elmhurst School of Dance**

AN eight-year-old schoolgirl has won a place at a prestigious dance academy associated with the Birmingham Royal Ballet.

Hannah Beech, of Brierley Hill, has been dancing under the stewardship of Michelle Portman of the MSA Academy at Brierley Hill for four years.

In September she will join the Elmhurst School for Dance in Edgbaston.

Ms Portman said: "She has done

incredibly well and is the first one of my students who has gone through to Elmhurst. I only started putting children through for the auditions this year. It will start off with an associate programme which will see her go every Saturday and when she is 11 she will audition again for the lower school."

Her parents Caroline and Jonathan added: "We are both incredibly proud and delighted with her success."

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# Train delays due to metal thefts down by 70 per cent

**DELAYS to train services in the Black Country following incidents of metal theft on the lines have plummeted by more than 70 per cent, new figures show.**

Rail bosses say an increase in the use of CCTV and patrols being stepped up has helped the improvement. In 2014 there were 312 delayed services across the Black Country following the theft of cables, compared with 1,111 in 2012.

## Volunteers are taking action this summer

HUNDREDS of Black Country teenagers have been putting their names down for a summer volunteering programme.

More than 1,000 local teenagers have signed up to take part in the National Citizen Service (NCS), which is run throughout the summer.

NCS is a Government-funded initiative that supports community engagement and social integration among young people. It is aimed at 15 to 17-year-olds and gives participants the chance to develop skills and gain new experiences, while making new friends and contributing to their local area.

The programme has been running in the Black Country for five years, with fewer than 200 people taking part in its first year.

During their time on the programme participants take part in outdoor activities and learn how to live independently. For more information visit [www.ncs.thechallenge.org](http://www.ncs.thechallenge.org)

There has also been a significant drop in the number of cancelled services linked to metal theft, falling from 197 services in 2012 to just 64 in 2013. In 2014 there was a slight increase with 68 services cancelled.

Bosses at Network Rail said the figures reflect work which has been done to deter thieves.

Michelle Peace, senior information officer, said: "We have been working with the British Transport Police, BTP, and other cross-industry partners to successfully reduce the number of cable thefts and impact of incidents on the railway."

"Although the number of incidents has reduced significantly the risk is still high and we continue to work to reduce the risk of cable theft."

### Hotspots

"We now manage the process through the identification of hotspots."

The figures, published following a Freedom of Information request, cover locations across Wolverhampton and the Black Country boroughs, plus Soho South junction, Birmingham New Street, Jewellery Quarter and Birmingham Snow Hill.

Ms Peace said the reduction in thefts was down to scrap metal regulations, a dedicated task force in partnership with British Transport Police, the use of covert cameras, fencing repairs and patrols by Network Rail staff.

## Wrestlers in show of strength for charity



**Wrestlers Adam Kirby from Netherton (left) and David Minton from Brierley Hill will test their strength for charity**

IT will be a test of strength for a pair of professional wrestlers from the Black Country who have signed up to a strongest man contest.

Dave Minton, who goes by the stage name Dave Mastiff, and his pal Adam Kirby, aka Simply Sensational Saul Adams, have put themselves forward for the annual Sandwell's Strongest Man.

The pair have trained in the gym together for the best part of a decade and decided to create some competition between themselves, and raise cash for

Acorns Children's Hospice, by taking on the strongman event.

Mr Minton, of Brierley Hill, and 29-year-old Mr Kirby, from Netherton, will face a series of 10 muscle-straining challenges as part of the contest, including the Atlas stones, farmer's walk, dead lift, shoulder press and tractor pull.

While the pair have both honed their physiques in the gym over years, Mr Minton admitted taking on some of the strongman events had been tougher than anticipated.

Mr Minton, aged 30, said: "Some of the events like the Atlas stones are so alien compared to techniques that you use as a regular gym member. It took us by surprise the first couple of weeks. We had to do extra research and ask people so we could learn new techniques."

Sandwell's Strongest Man takes place during the Sandwell Show on August 30 and 31.

To donate visit [www.justgiving.com/sandwellsstrongestbeards](http://www.justgiving.com/sandwellsstrongestbeards) or text SSBS99 plus an amount to 70070.

## Fewer people with mental illness in cells

THE number of people with mental health problems being locked up in police cells has halved across the West Midlands, new figures have revealed.

Chiefs launched a crackdown to stop suspects being detained under the mental health act when they should be taken to other facilities.

Psychiatric nurses are based at West Midlands police stations and attend call-outs to help officers decide if a person needs more help.

The number of detentions of mentally ill people by police fell from 636 to 301 in 2014.

The triage scheme was set up after it emerged about a fifth of police resources in the West Midlands are taken up by incidents involving mental health.

Getting people assessed by nurses when they arrive at the station saves time and means they can be transferred quickly if needed, bosses say.

Chief Inspector Sean Russell said: "In the past we've not worked alongside agencies like the ambulance service and mental health providers and it's meant too many people ending up in police custody and essentially being criminalised for being unwell."

The team helped in 2,256 incidents, of which 1,756 included health assessments.

Physical health was also assessed at the station rather than at a hospital.

## Mayor moves online to boost his charities

THE Mayor of Dudley has launched a new scheme to allow people to donate money to his charities online.

Councillor Steve Waltho unveiled the Mayor of Dudley's Charities via BT My Donate. The new system, which has been set up with help from Castle and Crystal Credit Union, allows people to donate money at the click of a button. People can also keep up to date via [mydonate.bt.com/charities/mayorofdudleyscharities](http://mydonate.bt.com/charities/mayorofdudleyscharities)

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# Panicking driver began an 80mph police chase

## Grandad's abseil challenge



Halesowen's Peter Goode, aged 77, starts his descent from 100ft above the Holte End at Villa Park in aid of Acorns Children's Hospice

IT was a hair-raising experience for a Halesowen grandfather who abseiled 100ft down one of Villa Park's most famous stands.

Grandfather-of-two Peter Goode had a bird's eye view of the Holte End when he took part in the challenge for charity.

But he stayed cool under pressure - having worked for many years as an engineer on the BT Tower, an iconic part of the Birmingham skyline.

"Heights aren't a problem for me. I really enjoyed it. Not many people see Villa Park like that," he said.

The 77-year-old from Woodbury Road, Halesowen, joined others helping to raise cash for Acorns Children's Hospice.

Volunteers were strapped into harnesses before abseiling their way down from the gantry on the roof.

Mr Goode decided to take part after hearing about children cared for by the hospice. His son Nigel's partner Susan Edwards is a fundraiser and administrator at the charity. Nigel, 50, also took part. "When you see what these children go through you want to do something to help," added Mr Goode.

A DRIVER panicked when he saw a police car behind him, leading to a high-speed chase through Black Country, a judge heard.

Police searching for a Ford Focus followed one being driven by Ibrar Mohammed for a short distance while checks were made. But before the inquiry could rule out the car, Mohammed had accelerated to 80mph in a 30mph zone, Wolverhampton Crown Court was told.

The 29-year-old motorist had seen the police car - with neither siren nor flashing lights deployed - in his rear view mirror and panicked when his passenger disclosed he was carrying some drugs.

Mr Kevin Jones, prosecuting, explained: "Police were looking for an unrelated Ford Focus and were travelling behind this car while some checks were made."

"These eliminated it from the police inquiry but by then the motorist was driving dangerously."

### Humps

Mohammed careered over speed humps, hurtled through junctions, drove on the wrong side of the road forcing other traffic to take evasive action and went through sets of red lights.

The seven minute chase on March 2 started in Bloomfield Road, Tipton, and ended on Birmingham New Road near its junction with Tivdale Road when Mohammed tried to run away.

Miss Jabeen Akhtar, defending, said: "His driving was pretty appalling."

"When he realised the police car was behind him his passenger revealed he had some drugs."

"The defendant panicked and did not inquire about the quantity. This would have revealed it was a small amount consistent with personal use for which the passenger has already been fined."

Mohammed, of Walford Street, Oldbury, pleaded guilty to dangerous driving.

He was given a six months jail sentence suspended for a year, banned from driving for 18 months and ordered to pay £1,500 costs with 150 hours unpaid work.

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# Brewers back Fizzogs' Festival Fringe shows

**THE Fizzogs are planning on havin' a loff at Edinburgh's Festival Fringe with help from Holden's Brewery.**

Comedy actors Sue Hawkins, Jacky Fellows and Deb Nicholls, who make up The Fizzogs, have gained sponsorship from the Dudley-based brewery to take their unique blend of Black Country comedy to Scotland for the world's largest arts festival.

The Edinburgh Festival Fringe takes place every August for three weeks in Scotland's capital city.

The Fizzogs will be there for seven days between the August 7 and 13.

They are also in talks about producing their own beer with Holden's to take to the festival with them.

Deb Nicholls, one third of the trio who are best known for their Dancing Grannies characters, explained: "It costs around £4,000 to go to Fringe for one week. And we've accumulated around £2,000 from our generous fans and a cash donation from Holden's."

## Support

"This is our first time working alongside Holden's but we can't wait to give them a mention at our shows and even bring a bottle or two of our own beer with us - which we're currently in talks about producing with them. We can't wait to bring a bit of the Black Country to Edinburgh."

The Fizzogs and Holden's partnership has been in the planning since the comedy group met Holden's representatives via the Black Country Festival preparations.

Abi Temp, Holden's Director, said: "We've contributed towards a show for them, and hopefully they'll be able to get both our names out there whilst up in Scotland."

"They are great girls, absolutely hilarious and obviously we love to support local acts. It is a really nice partnership that we have. It's nice to be able to try something different."

Fizzog Productions, formed in 2000



Jacky Fellows and Deb Nicholls, in granny guise, with Holden's Abi Temp

has presented a series of shows and sketches at venues across the region, including the Black Country Living Museum.

Before Edinburgh, they perform Funny As Folk with Black Country

musicians The Empty Can at Netherton Arts Centre tomorrow (Friday). It's the last show of the Black Country Festival and tickets are £12. Call 07757 424618 or visit [www.fizzogproductions.co.uk](http://www.fizzogproductions.co.uk)

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# Special school is proud to be in Parliament book

A FLAGSHIP special school in Dudley has been featured in a prestigious book on British history.

'The Story of Parliament: Celebrating 750 years of Parliament in Britain' gives a comprehensive account of parliamentary politics, with heads of state and British embassies worldwide receiving copies.

Inside they will also find a double-page spread profiling Brier School in Kingswinford.

Headteacher Russell Hinton, explained: "In the book you have got sections about the history of Parliament but then also sections about different elements of what make up modern Britain.

"There is a section on education, where we fitted in, a section on manufacturing, one on health and many more. They looked at several different schools when deciding on who

would be involved. We were picked for being an inclusive school with a good reputation."

The school was first asked to be involved around 18 months ago by The History of Parliament Trust. Staff from the trust came to the school and carried out interviews and took photographs to create the feature.

This year the school was invited to send representatives to a presentation event at Westminster Abbey and to contribute work to an exhibition staged to accompany the book's publication. Pupils also held their own school election.

Mr Hinton, added: "When I saw the book would be sent to embassies and heads of state that made me immensely proud to be the headteacher at such a school. Pictures of Brier School may be seen across the world. That is fantastic."



The Brier School headteacher Russell Hinton shows the school's section in the book on Parliament

# Supermarket sweep in for charity choice

TWO supermarkets in the Black Country have announced which charities they will support for the coming year. Staff and customers at Sainsbury's Amblecote and Merry Hill stores chose The Paul Ackrill Fund and Alzheimer's Society.

It's the seventh year of the Sainsbury's Local Charity of the Year scheme, which has raised over £7 million to support local charities since 2009.

This year, for the first time, customers got the chance to vote for their charity, from a shortlist, put together by their local store.

The Paul Ackrill Fund helps people under the age of 30, diagnosed with cancer, living or being treated in the West Midlands. Sainsbury's Amblecote will kick off the campaign with a teddy tombola on July 31 and August 1.

Gill Ackrill, a trustee from The Paul Ackrill Fund said: "We're absolutely thrilled to be chosen as the Sainsbury's Amblecote Local Charity of Year. We can't wait to work together and raise the profile of our charity over the next year. Thank you to all the customers that voted for us, we really appreciate the support."

# Cyclist's continent conquest complete

CANCER survivor Sam Greatrex has completed a marathon cycle ride across an entire continent and surpassed his fundraising goal of £240,000.

Sam, from Halesowen, successfully made his way from the east to the west coast of South America, covering a total distance of more than 2,493 miles (or 4,000km), which is a greater distance than this year's Tour de France.

He completed the epic journey, without support staff, in just under a month.

It was the latest leg of his charity challenge called Lap the World, in which he set out to raise £240,000 for Macmillan Cancer Support.

It was while travelling through Peru that the 30-year-old discovered that donations had topped a quarter of a million pounds.

The charity is a deeply personal cause for the intrepid fundraiser who, at the age of 10, was diagnosed with Non-Hodgkin Lymphoma.

He underwent successful chemotherapy at Birmingham Children's Hospital and was helped through his treatment and recovery by Macmillan nurse Moira Bradwell.

Sam said that she had been 'an inspiration' to him and he had continued to see her regularly for check-ups for the next 17 years.

## Atlantic

He completed the first leg of his formidable challenge last year by cycling 1,700 miles through Southern France, Spain and to the western edge of Europe at Lagos in Portugal's Algarve region.

The aim has been to avoid any motorised forms of transport, so he then set about reaching the Americas — by rowing across the Atlantic Ocean.

His five-strong team completed the 3,800 nautical-mile journey in 51 days in a 28ft boat, beating the



Sam on a beach in Peru

previous world record by 20 days. The team rowed 12 hours a day.

The latest solo leg across South America meant taking on the Amazon rainforest, the Andes mountains and apparently endless miles of South American dirt roads, sometimes through dangerous regions.

After overcoming several hundred kilometres of dirt road after setting off in Guyana, he crossed the border into Brazil where he discovered he did not have the required entry stamp. As a result, he had to reach the city of Manaus — 100 miles away — in three days to pay a fine or risk being deported.

After making it to Manaus he was forced to take an Amazon river boat after rain destroyed the route ahead.

Sam eventually completed the epic journey in Peru on July 15 having covered more than 4,000km.

He said on Twitter: "4,013.5km done! South America, thank you for the amazing end to the expedition."

## Opening date for new

BIRMINGHAM'S new Harvey Nichols store will open to the public tomorrow (Friday).

The 45,000 sq ft store in the newly transformed Mailbox, will be Harvey Nichols' first design concept store and will offer more than 200 of the world's most desirable brands.

It will have its own bar, which will be open until 12.30am on Fridays and Saturdays. There will also be beauty rooms.

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# Bazaar wins battle of the bostin' Black Country baltis

TWO restaurants have created their own Black Country baltis in a bid to be crowned the best baltic houses in the region.

Balti Bazaar and Blakey's Eastern Promise, both in Lye, took part in the cookery competition held at the Red House Glass Cone in Wordsley.

Steve Edwards, chairman of the Black Country Festival community group, said: "Obviously we live in a multi-cultural society and Indian cuisine is really important to us in our area.

## Heritage

"The balti competition was part of celebrating that fact, as their heritage is our heritage. We want to celebrate that we live in an integrated society, and different ethnic minorities have played a huge part in our heritage for 50 plus years."

Four dishes were produced for the competition, two by each restaurant, one being a classic balti and the other a vegetarian dish.

After being faced with difficult choice, as both restaurants impressed the judges, it was the Balti Bazaar crowned the winners, although Mr Edwards insisted that both competitor's dishes were delicious.

"The food was absolutely fantastic," he said.

"Both curry houses cooked up superb food and it's definitely something we want to do again next year."

The competition was held as part of the Black Country Day festivities celebrating the best that the area has to offer.



Deputy Mayor Mohammed Hanif, Balti Bazaar 's Monsur Ali (left) and Mahabub Hussain of Eastern Promise

# How baggy do you want your shirt — Albion go XXXL

NEVER mind being big – it's bulge bulge for some Baggies fans with the club offering some of the biggest football shirts in the Premier League.

Larger fans can now slip into XXXL jerseys.

Villa have also made sure they are catering for supporters of all shapes and sizes by going even bigger with XXXXXXL shirts,for people with a 59 to 62ins chest in the club shop.

## Villa

The shirts on sale at Villa Park are the biggest in the Premier League, in line with those at Arsenal and Norwich. Fans can get a 6XL shirt for the same price as a small shirt, £50.

Albion also stock larger shirts, but their offerings in the club shop stop at 3XL. Baggies tops cost £49.99

# 480 elderly people go missing in one year

**ALMOST 500 people aged over 70 have been reported as missing in the West Midlands in just one year.**

West Midlands Police responded to 480 cases of elderly people missing between April 2014 and March 2015, in figures obtained by a Freedom of Information Act request. The statistics show a wide variety of time-scales for finding people and reasons given for them going missing.

They also show some cases of people being reported as missing on numerous occasions.

One 76-year-old lady was reported as missing three times, covering a stretch of 58 days and 20 hours, with reasons given stating that she was a homeless asylum seeker with mental health issues who was living a 'transient' lifestyle.

An 81-year-old man was also missing for 101 days and 23 hours, but no reason was given for his disappearance, while a 102-year-old went missing for one day, with his reason listed as 'other'.

According to these figures, males accounted for 319 of the 480 reports.

## Dementia

Reasons given for other people going missing range from them being disorientated, to being sufferers of dementia, having Alzheimer's disease or due to them having drug abuse issues.

West Midlands Police spokeswoman Kate Baker

by Jordan Harris

said that all missing person reports were taken very seriously by police.

She explained: "Considerable time and resources are invested in finding them to ensure they are safe and well.

"Each is assessed against a number of criteria to determine their vulnerability.

"We pursue every viable possible line of enquiry and when all these avenues are exhausted cases are periodically reviewed by a Superintendent, together with specialist investigators as necessary, at least every 12 months, indefinitely.

"New evidence is always investigated if and when it comes to light."

She said the police force had dedicated missing person co-ordinators working closely with local authorities.

She added: "We also work very closely with the charity Missing People, who can provide specialist support to the families of loved ones who have disappeared."

# Mon on the run to fly flag in Dublin

THE iconic Black Country flag will be flown in Ireland during a challenging run.

Ian Marrey, a member of the Black Country Festival organising committee, is set to run the Rock and Roll Half Marathon in Dublin on Sunday dressed as 'Black Country Mon'. In the distinctive red caped costume, he will be raising money for charity group WeLoveCarers in Brierley Hill and for Mary Stevens Hospice.

"It is a great opportunity to raise money for some very worthwhile causes while at the same time fly the flag for the Black Country overseas," said Mr Marrey. "We have already seen the flag make appearances abroad in the World Cup as well as closer to home at Glastonbury Festival, and I am delighted to be able to keep that tradition going."

Mayor of Dudley Councillor Steve Waltho said: "I am delighted Ian is taking the flag overseas to show that community pride."

Mr Marrey also competed in the Black Country Run through Halesowen, dressed as Black Country Mon, for the same charities.

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## Boycott's first class innings for cricket fans

**Boycott and Aggers, the second innings, Symphony Hall, Birmingham**

GIVEN the chance he would bat all day – and Geoff Boycott showed he could have easily stopped on stage just as long.

On the eve of the crucial third Test at Edgbaston, Boycott and Test Match Special colleague Jonathan Agnew entertained the Symphony Hall audience for more than two hours with their Second Innings show – so-called as it followed a similar event two years ago.

With 'Aggers' acting as the perfect stooge, the Yorkshire and England legend gave his forthright views on the state of game today and on England's prospects of winning the Ashes.

He lamented the current side's batting ability, with special mention being made of Warwickshire hero Ian Bell and gave his opinion on the Kevin Pietersen saga.

There were tales of old, highlighted by video footage, while Boycott was also quizzed by Aggers in a Mastermind-style challenge to see how much he knew about himself.

Questions from the audience followed, though Boycott's anecdotes about Brian Clough went on too long.

And for those with their Boycott Bingo cards, give yourself a mark for 'Stick of Rhubarb' and for his opinion on would-be opener Luke Wright: "My mum could bat better than him."

A great night for all cricket enthusiasts

**Mark Shipp**



Bethan and the Morgans who had a pre-launch concert for their debut album Oddity

## Out of the chaos comes the sound of Bethan

**Bethan and the Morgans  
Katie Fitzgerald's**

WITH several technical difficulties, a little bit of nerves and a contingent of the audience who obviously thought they had paid to be part of a loud debating society, the launch of Midlands band Bethan and the Morgans' album, Oddity, in Stourbridge was pretty chaotic.

As the show at Katie Fitzgerald's progressed the nerves dissipated, the technical problems were eventually solved but the annoying and intrusive chatter went on.

All this aside Bethan Edwards, the lead singer, did get a chance to show her voice cannot be contained by a small venue such as the cellar of the Enville Street pub which is run by Eddy Morton, founder of the Bushbury Mountain Daredevils and who is a well-known and respected figure on the music scene.

The Morgans, who are fellow founder member David Ross, Lauren Bennett who provides the harmonies and double bass, James Rhodes and Daniel Fosteras, mixed

## REVIEWS

in covers from such as Adele with songs from their debut album.

Edwards has a tremendous voice which can carry an awful lot of emotion and you kind of get the feeling that if she had really used the full power of her vocals she would have loosened some of the brickwork.

Strangely enough they opened with, You Will Learn, a track intended for their next album and which gave a flavour that it could be more rock orientated than their first.

But obviously they did throw in several tracks from the disc bringing their mix of country, folk and pop influenced songs

With a little polish and a bit more experience under their belts the Midlands are going to hear a lot more from Bethan and the Morgans.

**Danny Farragher**

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Investment will keep  
pace with new trucks



Chief technician Alistair Simpson in the new tool making workshop at Auto Styling Truckman's base in Brierley Hill

BRIERLEY Hill-based 4x4 vehicle accessory manufacturer and distributor, Auto Styling Truckman, has invested in a new and larger development and tool-making workshop ahead of the launch of a portfolio of new hardtops for pick-up trucks.

The new facility, in the company's new fitting and distribution centre, involves an investment of £60,000.

It will support the development of the company's extensive range of hardtops, including a number of new designs being created for the launch of new pick-up trucks that will hit the UK market in the next nine months.

Throughout this year and early next year, Mitsubishi, Nissan and Toyota will each launch new pick-up truck models into the UK market, and Auto Styling Truckman is currently developing versions of its hardtops for the up-coming L200, Navara and Hilux.

At 225 sq ft, the new development and tool making workshop is double the size of the company's existing operation and will create the tooling that will subsequently be used to manufacture within its current 30,000 sq ft production facility. Currently employing three expert tool makers, Auto Styling Truckman plans to recruit an additional two more skilled people.

# Campaign to save pub will carry on after appeal

MORRISONS has been given the go-ahead to turn a pub in Sedgley into a supermarket — but campaigners have pledged to resist the move.

The decision comes just weeks after Aldi got the go-ahead to demolish Dudley's landmark King Arthur pub. Meanwhile, popular locals in Netherton and Halesowen are also facing threats from retailers wanting to open new stores.

by Simon Stone

Supermarket giant Morrisons look set to replace the Seven Stars pub in Gospel End Road after its appeal was upheld against Dudley Council's original decision to reject the plans.

The move comes despite the fact that the Seven Stars had been granted Asset of Community Value (ACV) status by the council, which is supposed to afford the pub more protection by paving the way for community pub purchases.

Councillor Paul Brothwood insisted the community would not give up. He said: "Fortunately Morrisons didn't appeal to overturn the Asset of Community Value. Thank goodness we got the protection when we did. The status is still in place but it is only for three years, so may only slow the process down. The fight will continue without a doubt."

The pub's supporters have campaigned to protect the Seven Stars since Morrisons revealed plans last October to take over the site.

Proposals submitted to Dudley Council for The Crown in Netherton earmarked part of its car park for a Co-operative store, which the pub landlord fears will destroy his business.

The plans for the 356sqm store have been put forward by Peter Brett Associates on behalf of New River Retail, which have bought many former Marston's pubs.

Landlord Robin Wall, who took on the pub four months ago, said the loss of parking space would hit business, as would the new store if it sold alcohol.

In Halesowen campaigners hope The Maypole pub in Bassnase Road is safe after Dudley Council nominated it for ACV status.

## Make and Natter day is coming

Pelsall E TG

FORMAL matters were soon concluded at the July 16 meeting on and orders for choice of filling for baked potatoes to be supplied by Eatso at next month's members evening were collected.

Members were reminded of the Federation Make and Natter Day to be held at Pelsall Community Centre, Station Road, Pelsall, on Saturday August 22.

This will be in two sessions 10am-1pm and 2pm-5pm, at a cost of £6 per session. Entry is by ticket only. Refreshments will be available.

A tutor and materials will be available at each table and will last approximately one hour per table.

Pat Heeley confirmed details for the outing on Monday August 24 to Buxton, Derbyshire, with afternoon tea aboard the Judith Mary, a 72ft long canal boat.

The Walking Group advised that this month they had walked some old familiar routes, via public footpaths and canal towpaths, to Aldridge, Brownhills and Walsall Arboretum.

After a short coffee break Guest Speaker, Pamela Wade, gave an insight into her life as a Hospital School Room Teacher.

She recalled some touching and moving examples, together with some very amusing and inspiring incidents.

Pamela covered a side of hospital life not given much publicity. The monthly competition for a handmade Get Well card was won by Ann Sale and the raffle winner was guest Ann Baker.

## 60th celebration is arranged by club

### Warm welcome to potential members

PRESIDENT Margaret Beppard welcomed everyone and particularly seven potential new members.

Things have been fairly quiet since last meeting — seven Eating Out club members had a very nice lunch at the Bridge Inn, Brewood.

As she was their delegate as well as ours, the President went to Coven WI meeting to tell them about the Centenary AGM in the Albert Hall.

She was made very welcome and Coven WI have invited Shareshill members to their Open meeting on May 10 next year.

Members were reminded that Centenary Raffle tickets are still available and the Group Meeting is on October 22 at St John's Church Hall, Heath Hayes, where the speaker will be Paul Dudgeon on The

Shareshill WI

Power of a Picture. We are hoping for good weather for the Summer Saunter on August 20 leaving from outside the Post Office at 6.15pm prompt.

Craft Club will be meeting on Thursday August 13; Theatre Club members are going to Wightwick Manor on the same date to see Hamlet. The Darts Club is still practising on Tuesday evenings at the Dog and Partridge and Eating Out Club will not meet again until October.

The meeting on September 17 will be a Skittles Party to celebrate the 100th birthday of WI and members can each bring along one friend.

Donations of food for the evening are still required.

### Wolverhampton Flower Arrangement Club

WOLVERHAMPTON Flower Arrangement Club celebrated its Diamond Anniversary.

The celebration lunch took place on July 17 at The Horns, Bovingale, Albrighton.

Chairman Mrs Maureen Cooper welcomed 50 members and guests, which included the National chairman, Sue Brinton, Mercia and North Wales President, Sue Davies, Chairman Sue Dix and Area Past Chairman Anita Wright.

Chairman of the Wolverhampton Club, Mrs Maureen Cooper said it was a special day and needed a special celebration.

Delving into the archives, she discovered the club, was founded in 1955 by worthy ladies of the town including Lady Margaret Lees and Dr Hickmans who wrote a regular column in the Express & Star and the paper also carried a regular page on the Art of Flower Arrangement.

There was a strict vetting procedure to join and waiting lists could be as long as a year to join the then 100 member club.

## Images of Worcs on show

At the July meeting John Billingham gave his presentation of Worcester Images.

Most of the views were of familiar towns and villages and he explained the significance of hop picking in the Teme Valley, Broadway and its Tower, Pershore Abbey, Worcester Cathedral, Bewdley and the influence of John Corbett and the salt production of Droitwich.

The Society meets at the Community

K-swinford & District Historical Society

Centre, High Street, Kingswinford on the first Monday in the month.

The next meeting on August 3 at 7.30pm sees Robert Ernschaw, a warden at Wrens Nest Nature Reserve, presenting his talk on the area. On the following Monday members are invited to join him on a walk at the reserve. Call Ron Julian 01384 295848.

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Staff outside Boynton's Butchers in Pinfold Street



Staff at Clemmys, which is still going strong today



Staff at the Perks's Shop prior to decimalisation in the early 1970s



Middleton's Fish Shop in King Street in the 1980s



Mrs Carless with her large selection of sweets at the Carless Sweet Shop at Catherine's Cross

# History of once-vibrant shopping town in store

A NEW book has been published to celebrate the impact of the dozens of shops that had people flocking to Darlaston.

The 92-page book titled 'Shops and Clubs of Darlaston Throughout the Years' is the result of a project undertaken by the Darlaston All Active charity and was funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund grant to the tune of £54,000.

It features dozens of old photographs of the old businesses and clubs, going back as far back as the late 19th century. It also includes several stories from contributors who recall the days when Darlaston was a buzzing shopping hub.

The team behind the book said there were about 70 shops in the town in its heyday, but now there are just a dozen.

They say things have never been the same since Asda's redeveloped supermarket came to the town - built on land where some of its former and most loved family-run shops stood.

The book tells how William Wenn's grocery store in Pinfold Street in the

## MEMORY LANE

By Nigel Slater

19th century was the first building in Darlaston to be lit by electricity. And it explores the history of other family-run businesses, including the likes of Boynton's the Butchers, J.T Underwood's Shoe Shop, Burton's the tailors, Howard Brothers which sold radios, televisions and records, Middleton's toy shop and George Mason's Butchers.

It also gives an insight into the history of family run store Bedworth's in King Street - owned by town resident Leonard Bedworth - which sold groceries and on its first floor ran Darlaston's first ever cafe in the 1950s.

King Street, described as the main shopping street of the town in years gone by, included an array of butchers shops, a cooked meat shop, two greengrocers, cake shops, two wet fish shops and a furniture store - some are still trading today. Clothing shop Clemmy's of King Street opened in 1967 and expanded into a school uni-

form business. The shop is still part of the town centre today under the name Clemmys.

There is also a dedicated chapter about L & S Middleton's fish shop in Church Street in the 1960s, which expanded to a cash and carry business which is still going strong today in Willenhall.

Darlaston All Active member Pauline Poole writes about her memories of shopping in the town centre and the excitement it used to create.

The book also details all the shops in Darlaston Green, Walsall Road and on Blockall Road, including several sweet shops. A detailed history of the town's fish and chip shops is included.

It was compiled by Darlaston All Active member and town historian Tony Highfield, 73, who has written several books detailing Darlaston's proud history for the past 20 years.

More than 200 people were at an event to see the book being launched by Walsall Mayor Councillor Angela Underhill on July 17. The book is available to buy at the Darlaston All Active centre. For more information call 0121 5686 144.



Sharon Felton and compiler, historian Tony Highfield



Billy Winfindale, now aged 92, ran his cycle shop in Wolverhampton Street for many years

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VISIT

# Stourbridge

SUMMER EDITION



The area around the iconic clock is a focal point of the town

## Decade of blooming excellence



The attractive surroundings of 18th century St Thomas's Church in Stourbridge town centre

### ADVERTISING FEATURE

**STOURBRIDGE in Bloom has entered the Heart of England in Bloom campaign for the last ten years and the judges paid a visit on July 10.**

To date we have achieved a silver, two silver gilts and six gold awards. In addition Mary Stevens Park and Wollescote Park have both won best 'Horticultural Excellence' awards throughout the Heart of England and Oldswinford Hospital School, Ham Dingle Primary School, St Thomas Church and Dudley MBC have all been recognised with awards.

The 2015 judges tour starts at Wollescote Park and are met by the Friends Group. Schools and other voluntary groups with a tour of the park. The judges are taken through Stourbridge residential areas, stop to view Oldswinford Hospital School and then into Mary Stevens Park in the park where the judges are met by Dudley MBC Green Care, the Lottery Bid organisers, Friends Group, Mary Stevens Hospice, Stourbridge in transition Clean Water Project.

The tour continues around the ring road and meets Stourbridge College students representing St John's Church and Rev Stuart Scott. Moving down the High Street we meet Dudley MBC Street Cleaning team in the clock area, then concluding the tour at St Thomas's Church where Roman Road Butterfly Project, Green Streets Green Tennants, Street

Pastors, St Thomas volunteers, Wollaston gardeners Guild and Crystal Quilters and individual volunteers are met.

The tour is marked over three hours against the same set criteria that covers every entry across the country.

The groups that met the judges presented a good standard of work that demonstrated a before, during and a plan for the next 12 months covering floral, community and environmental/biodiversity development and actions.

The results will be known in September 2015 followed by our own local awards evening recognising the magnificent work that has been achieved.

#### Carnival

The 28th Stourbridge Town Carnival continued its success from 2014 attracting great crowds enhancing its appeal again with the addition of the Black Country Festival.

Even the downpour at 2pm didn't put the visitors off as they dived for cover in the cafe, pubs and covered centres.

The day started with the Carnival Rosebud and Princess competition seeing over 30 entries. All the entrants receive a goodie bag with the winners and runners-up receiving cash prizes, photo shoot and a goodie bag. Paddy Jones from Britain's Got Talent was one of the judges. Arenas in the clock area and at the top of Coventry Street hosted a range of performances



Stourbridge In Bloom has won a host of awards

throughout the day. Mayor and Mayoress Steve and Jane Walther officially opened the Carnival and judged the parade and then welcomed the crowds at the top of Coventry Street.

Charity and voluntary stalls filled the High Street, fairground rides and costumed characters filled the streets. A retro fair and classic vehicles brought life and activity down in Lower High Street and 360 Skate Boarding brought an added interest in the Ryemarket.

#### Stourbridge Township Council

The group was created when the official Stourbridge Council was absorbed into Dudley MBC in the late 1970s.

Residents were concerned that a voice for the townspeople should be formed. A self-financing, voluntary group was created.

We have raised concerns over various issues in Stourbridge. When the old cinema was being demolished to be converted into a store we lobbied to ensure the

mosaic of the Coat of Arms was rescued. It was subsequently set into the block paving in the Crown Centre. We ensured that it was again saved when the Tesco development was proposed. Tesco undertook its renovation and reinstatement in the entrance to the store.

We also raised concerns about the park gates and we are delighted that the renovation has finally happened and the park and gates will be something to be proud of and for future generations to enjoy.

We liaise with and have the support of the police, Dudley council and our MP Margot James.

We have recently celebrated the 400th meeting of our group by having a supper, including a cake iced with the Coat of Arms, in the Amblecote Room at the Town Hall. We, individually and in groups join in with Friends of the Park, Stourbridge in Bloom, Chamber of Trade, Pact meetings, community forums etc.

We meet on the second Thursday of the month in the Amblecote room, Town Hall at 7.15pm.

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## JEWELLERY INSPIRED OPENS NEW SHOP IN STOURBRIDGE RYEMARKET SHOPPING CENTRE

Owner Jane McCrone commented "I am originally from the Stourbridge area and I am delighted to open my new shop in the Ryemarket shopping centre. I have had a very warm reception and I am looking forward to developing my new business."

Jewellery Inspired offers a wide range of jewellery, scarves, giftware and accessories. Jane makes bespoke handmade jewellery using Swarovski crystals, pearls, Murano glass and semi precious stones. She is also experienced in the designing of jewellery for weddings, proms and special occasions. There is a great choice of silver, magnetic and costume jewellery. The shop also displays watches, giftware and a selection of beautiful scarves. Jewellery Inspired welcomes everyone to the new shop.



# Waitrose marks a milestone year

## COMMERCIAL FEATURE

**PARTNERS at Waitrose in Stourbridge were celebrating the store's milestone 40th birthday in the Ryemarket Shopping Centre during July, with partners past and present joining in on the activities in store.**

The anniversary, on Wednesday, July 1, saw balloons, bunting and glasses of champagne to mark the occasion, as well as a selection of archive photographs illustrating the changing face of the brand in the town.

Whilst members of the original opening partner team returned to celebrate the day, many of the partners still working within the branch reflected on their time working at the Ryemarket store and how it has changed throughout the years.

### Influence

Branch Manager, David Harcourt, who has spent 35 years at the Stourbridge store said: "The difference between the partnership and the PLCs, is that the partners own the business and share in the profits and benefits."

"More interestingly they have a strong influence in how their branch is run and consistently bring up great ideas for us to be a more efficient and effective business," he added.

The store, located on Market Street employs more than 130 partners, not only serving customers who visit the town, but also those from far and wide out into the community through the Waitrose.com online shopping. Mike



Darren Briney serving fresh fish at Waitrose in the Ryemarket Shopping Centre

Turner, department manager at the branch, said: "We have a passionate team of partners who work to deliver the online service from the branch, delivering as far afield as Bobbington, Cleobury Mortimer and Stourport-on-Severn, as well as post codes throughout the Dudley and Black Country area."

"It sometimes surprises customers that we deliver so far from the store. And with the recent "Pick Your Own offers" promotion we have seen even greater interest in the service in recent weeks."

As a long established retailer within the town, the store also has close links within the local community, supporting healthy eating programmes through branch visits, inspiring customers by supporting cheese and wine events to local social groups, as well as providing support for local fundraising activities.

Through the Community Matters programme, which gives shoppers the opportunity to decide which causes they would like to be supported, the branch has donated around £100,000 to charities and good causes over the last eight to 10 years



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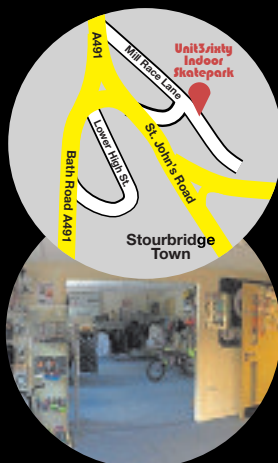
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# Get that fun Friday feeling at Ryemarket

MUMS and dads looking for ideas to keep the kids entertained during the school summer holidays need look no further than The Ryemarket Shopping Centre in the heart of Stourbridge.

The centre has locally become renowned for its Free Fun Fridays and this year is no exception with a wide range of activities this August.

The theme this year is a Big Top Circus extravaganza which includes magic, balancing acts and juggling, balloon modelling and clowning around.

There'll be something to keep all age groups entertained on August 7, August 14, August 21 and August 28 - and everything is free.

All the events start at 11am every Friday, continuing at intervals throughout the day until 4pm.

On August 7, youngsters can join in a magic workshop from the experts who are certain to 'have something up their sleeve' to keep them amused.

The following week, they can learn the 'tricks of the trade' such as spinning plates and juggling.

Children can find out how to make different shapes of animals at a balloon modelling workshop on August 21 and on the 28th they are sure to have fun 'acting the clown' at a clowning workshop.

Ryemarket shopping centre manager Kelley Dyas, who introduced the idea of Free Fun Fridays a few years ago, says the activities increase in popularity among parents and children year on year.

## Pockets

"The children look forward to coming in and taking part and as well as amusing the youngsters," she says. "It gives the parents a few minutes' peace with an added bonus that they're not digging deep into their pockets and spending their hard earned pennies on entertainment."

An additional animal day has been arranged for Friday, July 31, in conjunction with Just for Pets with various local animal charities coming in on the day along with Mad Science workshops doing a bug and slime workshop from 11-4 - another free event.

Meanwhile, mums and dads, grans and granddads or even uncles and aunts can sit down to watch, grab some refreshment at Costa or share the responsibilities of doing a spot of shopping.

And there's plenty of shopping choice in The Ryemarket.

The latest addition is the attraction of family-run Jewellery Inspired, founded

## COMMERCIAL FEATURE

by Jane McCrone and has been established in Halesowen for over two years.

Jewellery Inspired has joined another 2015 newcomer Pump Gyms, the first 24 hour biometric (finger print) access controlled gym in the country, so members can let themselves in and out at any time, with 24 hour CCTV.

Peacocks moved in just before Christmas and is proving a valuable addition.

News, events and promotions are posted regularly so you can keep up to date on The Ryemarket's activities on its website, Facebook and Twitter.

Stourbridge and district chamber of trade meet monthly at the Talbot hotel. Local businesses with a vested interest in the town are invited to become members to ensure they are at the forefront of processes at the consultation stages, so you can have your voice heard before decisions are made within the town centre landscape that will directly impact the town and the conditions in which everyone trades.

Stourbridge and District Chamber of Trade are looking to pull together businesses in Stourbridge and work together on a cohesive approach to marketing Stourbridge, as well as have a voice when it comes to planning, public transport and any development or issues that may affect the town. To do this successfully it needs as many businesses within the town as members to have a voice on how to see the town develop.

Not many people realise that the Stourbridge and district chamber of trade are at the forefront of organising the events within the town centre, as well as the Christmas lights within the town that go up every year.

For information about the next meeting or how to join, call 01384 378209 or 01384 378183, e-mail managers-tourbridge@waitrose.com or info@ryemarketshoppingcentre.co.uk



Shoppers can keep up to date with regular social media updates



Parents can relax while children enjoy the Fun Fridays throughout August

# BIG TOP FUN FRIDAY

**FRIDAY AUGUST 7**  
**Magic workshop**

**FRIDAY AUGUST 14**  
**Circus skills workshop**

**FRIDAY AUGUST 21**  
**Balloon modelling workshop**

**FRIDAY AUGUST 28**  
**Clowning workshop**

## ROLL UP... ROLL UP...

Entertain the kids during this summer holidays with a circus extravaganza at the Ryemarket

We will have lots of **FREE Friday Fun** throughout the month of August - **11am-4pm**. A variety of circus activities to entertain the kids in between the shopping



There's plenty of choice in the Ryemarket Shopping Centre



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SHOPPING CENTRE

STOURBRIDGE



# 24 Vibrancy of shopping village shows it really has lot to offer

Stourbridge Chronicle Thursday, July 30, 2015

THE bricks and mortar of Oldswinford may have changed very little in the almost 40 years that Oldswinford Galleries has been open for business but the vibrancy of the main shopping village is almost unrecognisable.

This is thanks to supportive residents who have embraced the importance of shopping locally, coupled with entrepreneurial individuals, who have seen Oldswinford as an attractive place to run their businesses.

Oldswinford Galleries (OG Home) is now the longest-running retail busi-

ness along the Hagley Road and owner Juliet Walker believes the outlook has never been so good.

"The existing businesses and new shops that come here continue to build on a great village atmosphere and give local people a real reason to shop and pamper locally," said Juliet Walker from OG Home.

## Socialise

"With Frox dress shop, Scratch Nail and beauty studio and great hair salons along our main street, Oldswinford really does have a lot to offer.

"The icing on the cake for us has been the opening of Oldswinford Coffee Lounge, which has brought

so many new faces to the village and gives local residents a place to socialise during the day," continues Juliet.

OG Home is playing a significant role in bringing shoppers from outside of Oldswinford and Stourbridge to the town too, thanks to its status as an Annie Sloan Chalk Paint TM stockist. "We are delighted to be the only official stockist in the area and we have already seen the number of new customers to the shop increase extensively," said Juliet.

"Now also running Annie Sloan Chalk Paint TM furniture painting workshops as well as flower arranging courses, we are loving meeting so many new and diverse people."

# The community matters to store

## COMMERCIAL FEATURE

**WAITROSE in Stourbridge has previously helped to raise funds to the Zoe Teale Memorial Fund to provide free screening sessions for young adults in the West Midlands.**

Community Matters donations also helped bring National Story Telling Laureate, Katrice Horsley to the town last year, and has also raised funds for Hall Greens Retired Greyhound Trust and Dudley's Operation Santa.

Just last month, £223 was donated to the Hagley Theatre Group, £256 to the Firtree Art Therapy and £521 to the Paul Ackrill Fund.

The Community Matters scheme is now taking a more personal turn as partners have been asked who they would like to see benefit.

## Selected

Alongside two local charities, nominated by customers, Waitrose has been asking partners to vote from a selection of charities where one will be selected to sit alongside local nominated causes and £1,000 will be shared between them.

The amount given to each charity is calculated based on the proportion of Green Tokens in each box.

Each Waitrose branch has a Community Matters champion who looks after the scheme within branch.

Due to its commitment to the Community Matters scheme and other programmes such as Partner Volunteering and Musical Matters, the Prime Minister David Cameron presented with a Big Society award in 2012.



Stourbridge Waitrose manager David Harcourt, whose store helps the community



Happy to help at Waitrose Stourbridge are Laura Jones, left, and Pam Hewins

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## OG Home

*The essence of Summer*

At Oldswinford Galleries – OG Home – 'the enchanted garden' is most happily our theme for this Summer.

Oldswinford Galleries (OG Home) lovingly selects furniture accessories, gifts and treats for the home. Great British brands at OG Home include Emma Bridgewater, Sophie Allport & East Of India.

Flowers for the weekend sees the very best flowers on sale as single stems, hand-tieds and pretty flower arrangements in vases.

OG Home is proud to be a major stockist of Annie Sloan Chalk Paint TM and runs official Chalk Paint TM workshops from its premises.



OG Home  
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## Funeral For A Friend



**Saturday, 7pm**  
**Slade Rooms, W'ton**  
 Funeral For A Friend are a Welsh post-hardcore band from Bridgend who formed back in 2001. The band is led by lead vocalist Matthew Davies-Kreye.  
 Visit [www.wolvescivic.co.uk](http://www.wolvescivic.co.uk)

## The Three Little Pigs



**Runs until Sunday**  
**Town Hall, B'h'am**  
 Simon Webbe (Blue, Strictly Come Dancing, Sister Act) stars in this new musical from the multi-award winning musical theatre song-writing duo that is George Stiles and Anthony Drewe.  
 Visit [www.thsh.co.uk](http://www.thsh.co.uk)

## Tres Tres Cabaret



**Friday, 8pm**  
**Gatehouse, Stafford**  
 Tres Tres Cabaret promises to bring you the most extravagant variety show. It features the hottest performers from the international cabaret scene to surprise and delight you.  
[www.staffordgatehousetheatre.co.uk](http://www.staffordgatehousetheatre.co.uk)

## Motown's Greatest Hits



**Friday, 7.30pm**  
**New Alexandra, B'h'am**  
 Now in its 13th successive year, this stunning 100 per cent live show combines first class music together with the slickest choreography, and an amazing band.  
 Visit [www.atgtickets.com](http://www.atgtickets.com)

## ROCK & POP

**CoCo And The Butterfields**  
 Sat at 8pm, £12  
 Artrix, Slideslow Drive, Artrix, Bromsgrove, B61 1PQ.  
 Call 01527 577330

**Rattlesnake Jake**  
 Sat at 12am, £8  
 Katie Fitzgerald's, Wollaston, Stourbridge, DY8 3TB.  
 Call 01384 374410

Sat at 7.30pm, 7.30pm, £8  
 The River Rooms, Stourbridge, DY8 1JN.  
 Call 01384 397177

**Kate Voegelge & Tyler Hilton**  
 Thu at 7pm, £17.50  
 O2 Academy Birmingham, B1 1DB. Call 0121 622 8250

**Hollywood Ending**  
 Wed at 7pm, £12.50  
 O2 Academy Birmingham, B1 1DB. Call 0121 622 8250

**Funeral For A Friend**  
 Sat at 7pm, £12  
 Wolverhampton Slade Rooms, WV1 1RQ.  
 Call 0870 320 7000

**Death Angel**  
 Tue at 7pm, £12.50  
 Wolverhampton Civic Hall, WV1 1RQ.  
 Call 0870 320 7000

**Real Nirvana**  
 Sat at 7pm, £6  
 The RoadHouse Birmingham, Kings Norton, Birmingham, B30 3DZ.  
 Call 0121 246 2273

**Solstafir**  
 Fri at 6.30pm - 10pm, £12.50  
 The Institute, Digbeth, Birmingham, B5 6DY.  
 Call 0121 643 0428

**Bad Religion**  
 Wed at 7pm, £18.50  
 The Institute, Digbeth, Birmingham, B5 6DY.  
 Call 0121 643 0428

**Supreme Queen**  
 Friday at 7pm  
 £11.00/£13.00  
 Robin 2, Bilston, WV14 7LJ  
 Call 01902 401211

**Quill**  
 Sat at 7pm  
 £12.50/£15.00  
 Robin 2, Bilston, WV14 7LJ  
 Call 01902 401211

## FOLK & ACOUSTIC

**Irish Music Session**  
 Wed at 12am,  
 Katie Fitzgerald's, Wollaston, Stourbridge, DY8 3TB.  
 Call 01384 374410

**Trembling Bells**  
 Wed at 7.30pm - 10.30pm, £10  
 Kitchen Garden Cafe, King's Heath, Birmingham, B14 7SA.  
 Call 0121 443 4725

**Willie Watson**  
 Tue at 7.30pm - 11pm, £13  
 Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath, Birmingham, B14 7JZ.  
 Call 0844 870 0000

**Irish Session**  
 Wed at 8pm, Free  
 Katie Fitzgerald's, Wollaston, Stourbridge, DY8 3TB.  
 Call 01384 374410

**Sandpiper Folk Club Night**  
 Wed at 7.45pm,  
 Pigot Arms, 11 High Street, Pattingham, Wolverhampton, WV6 7BQ.  
 Call 01902 700207

**Common Folk: Singers' Night**  
 Thu at 8.30pm,  
 Pelsall Cricket & Sports Club, Walsall Road, Walsall, WS3 4BP  
 Call 01922 682018

**Brewood Acoustic Club**  
 Thu at 8pm,  
 Brewood Cricket Club, Four Ashes Road, Brewood, ST19 9HX.  
 Call 01902 850422

**Country Music Nights**  
 Sun at 8.15pm, £2  
 Swan With Two Necks, Longdon, WS15 4PN.  
 Call 01543 491570

## JAZZ & BLUES

**Jazzlines Free Gigs: Rob Barron Trio**  
 Friday, 5pm  
 Symphony Hall Café Bar  
 B1 2EA. Call 0121 780 3333

## CLASSICAL & OTHER MUSIC

**The Big Band Show With Five Star Swing**  
 Sun at 7.30pm, £15 - £16  
 Artrix, Bromsgrove, B61 1PQ.  
 Call 01527 577330

**National Scout And Guide Symphony Orchestra 40th Anniversary Concert**  
 Fri at 7.30pm, Sat at 7.30pm, £8 - £10  
 Birmingham Conservatoire, Birmingham City University, B3 3HG. Call 0121 331 5901

## OPEN MICS

**Open Mic**  
 Tue at 7.30pm, Free  
 The Drum, Aston on Carrant, Birmingham, B6 4UU.  
 Call 0121 333 2400

**Open Mic Night**  
 Mon at 12am, Free  
 Katie Fitzgerald's, Wollaston, Stourbridge, DY8 3TB.  
 Call 01384 374410

## THEATRE

**Carnival Of The Bizarre**  
 Thu at 8pm  
 £15.00/£16.00  
 Robin 2, Bilston, WV14 7LJ  
 Call 01902 401211

**Family Fun Festival 2015: Poppins With A Twist: Out Of The Box**  
 Fri at 7pm, £6 - £8  
 Artrix, Bromsgrove, B61 1PQ.  
 Call 01527 577330

**Family Fun Festival 2015: A Dragon's Tale**  
 Fri at 2pm, £4 - £5  
 Artrix, Bromsgrove, B61 1PQ.  
 Call 01527 577330

**Tres Tres Cabaret**  
 Fri at 8pm, £15  
 Stafford Gatehouse Theatre, ST16 2LT.  
 Call 01785 254653

**The Three Little Pigs**  
 Fri at 11am - 12pm, 1.30pm - 2.30pm, Sat at 11am - 12pm, 1.30pm - 2.30pm, Sun at 11am - 12pm, 1.30pm - 2.30pm, £12 - £14  
 Birmingham Town Hall, B3 3DQ.  
 Call 0121 780 3333

**Barnum**  
 Fri at 7.30pm, Sat at 2.30pm, 7.30pm, £19.50 - £48.50  
 Birmingham Hippodrome, B5 4TB.  
 Call 0844 338 5000

**The Bodyguard**  
 Wed at 2pm, 2pm, 7.30pm, Thu at 2pm, 7.30pm, £18 - £49.50  
 Birmingham Hippodrome, B5 4TB.  
 Call 0844 338 5000

**Motown's Greatest Hits: How Sweet It Is**  
 Fri at 7.30 pm  
 £25.90  
 New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham, B5 4DS  
 Call 0844 871 3011

**An Evening of Dirty Dancing: The Tribute Show**  
 Sat at 7.30 pm  
 £24.90  
 New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham, B5 4DS  
 Call 0844 871 3011

**The Wizard of Oz**  
 Wed at 7.30pm,  
 Thur at 2.30pm, 7.30pm  
 £9.50/£10.50  
 Stafford Gatehouse Theatre, ST16 2LT.  
 Call 01785 254653

## COMEDY

**Comedy Carousel & Real Food Canteen**  
 Thu at 7pm, 11pm,  
 £5 - £19.50  
 The Glee Club, Birmingham, B5 4TD. Call 0871 472 0400

**Manford's Comedy Club**  
 Sat at 7.30pm - 11pm,  
 £12.50  
 Players Bar Birmingham, B1 2HG.  
 Call 0121 643 6817

## FESTIVALS

**Family Fun Festival 2015**  
 Fri at 12am - 12am,  
 Artrix, Bromsgrove, B61 1PQ.  
 Call 01527 577330

## TALKS

**Beyond The Ballot: A People's History Of Democracy**  
 Sat at 5pm, Free  
 mac, Cannon Hill Road, Birmingham, B12 9QH.  
 Call 0121 446 3232

**Freddie Flintoff: 2nd Innings**  
 Mon at 7.30pm, £25 - £50  
 Wolverhampton Civic Hall, WV1 1RQ.  
 Call 0870 320 7000

## ART GALLERIES

**Birmingham's People and Change in the Inner-City**  
 Sat at 10am - 5pm, Sun at 10am - 5pm, Mon at 10am - 5pm, Tue at 10am - 5pm, Wed at 10am - 5pm, Thu at 10am - 5pm, Free  
 Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery, B3 3DH.  
 Call 0121 303 1966

**The Festival Of Quilts**  
 Thu at 10am - 5.30pm,  
 £6 - £50  
 The NEC Birmingham Hall, B40 1NT.  
 Call 0121 780 4141

**Love Is Enough: William Morris and Andy Warhol**  
 Fri at 10.30am - 5pm, Sat at 10am - 5pm, Sun at 10am - 5pm, Mon at 10am - 5pm, Tue at 10am - 5pm, Wed at 10am - 5pm, Thu at 10am - 5pm, £3 - £17  
 Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery, B3 3DH.  
 Call 0121 303 1966

**Colour, Light, Texture: Portraits By Matthew Smith And Frank Dobson**  
 Fri at 10am - 5pm, Sat at 11am - 5pm, Sun at 11am - 5pm, Mon at 10am - 5pm, Tue at 10am - 5pm, Wed at 10am - 5pm, Thu at 10am - 5pm, Free  
 Barber Institute of Fine Arts, University of Birmingham, B15 2TS.  
 Call 0121 414 7333

**Small Worlds**  
 Fri at 10am - 5pm, Sat at 10am - 5pm, Sun at 12pm - 4pm, Tue at 10am - 5pm, Wed at 10am - 5pm, Thu at 10am - 5pm, Free  
 The New Art Gallery Walsall, WS2 8LG. Call 01922 654400

**Animal Architecture**  
 Fri at 10am - 5pm, Sat at 10am - 5pm, Sun at 12pm - 4pm, Tue at 10am - 5pm, Wed at 10am - 5pm, Thu at 10am - 5pm, Free  
 Wolverhampton Art Gallery, WV1 1DU.  
 Call 01902 552055

**Robert Davies: Of Time And The Railway**  
 Fri at 9am - 10pm, Sat at 9am - 10pm, Sun at 9am - 10pm, Mon at 9am - 10pm, Tue at 9am - 10pm, Wed at 9am - 10pm, Thu at 9am - 10pm, Free  
 mac, Cannon Hill Road, Birmingham, B12 9QH.  
 Call 0121 446 3232

## FAMILY EVENTS

**Contemporary Craft Markets**  
 Sun at 11am - 5pm, Free  
 mac, Cannon Hill Road, Birmingham, B12 9QH.  
 Call 0121 446 3232

**Love Is Enough: Family Friday**  
 Fri at 11am - 4pm, Free  
 Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery, B3 3DH.  
 Call 0121 303 1966

**Mini Museum**  
 Wed at 10am - 3pm, £10.50  
 mac, Cannon Hill Road, Birmingham, B12 9QH.  
 Call 0121 446 3232

**Show In A Week Musical Theatre Workshops (Ages 6-11)**  
 Thu at 10am - 3pm, £10.50  
 mac, Cannon Hill Road, Birmingham, B12 9QH.  
 Call 0121 446 3232

**Summer Holiday Family Fun**  
 Fri at 12am, Sat at 12am, Sun at 12am, Mon at 12am, Tue at 12am, Wed at 12am, Thu at 12am,  
 Cadbury World, Bournville, Birmingham, B30 2LU.  
 Call 0844 880 7667

**Lights, Camera, Action! Summer Holiday Activities**  
 Fri at 10am - 5pm, Sat at 10am - 5pm, Sun at 10am - 5pm, Mon at 10am - 5pm, Tue at 10am - 5pm, Wed at 10am - 5pm, Thu at 10am - 5pm, £7.25 - £45  
 The Black Country Living Museum, Dudley, DY1 4SQ.  
 Call 0121 557 9643

**Little Friends Baby and Toddler Group**  
 Fri at 10am - 12pm, £3  
 The Museum Of Cannock Chase, Hednesford, Cannock, WS12 1TD.  
 Call 01543 877666

Check out full listings in **the ticket** in Friday's Express & Star



# Blockbuster show at the Hippodrome



One moment in time with Alexandra Burke and the cast of West End hit *The Bodyguard* Picture by Paul Coltas

**AWARD-WINNING musical** *The Bodyguard* is coming to the Birmingham Hippodrome for a month-long run from Wednesday.

The show, based on the Hollywood blockbuster that starred Whitney Houston and Kevin Costner, has extended its run until September 5 due to popular demand.

X-Factor's Alexandra Burke plays

the leading role, Rachel Marron, in the show that features a host of Whitney Houston hits including One Moment in Time, Saving All My Love, I Wanna Dance with Somebody and I Will Always Love You.

Miss Burke took over the lead role from Wolverhampton's Beverley Knight when the show was a success in London's West End, winning Best New Musical at the Whatsonstage Awards.

Starring opposite her in the Costner role as Frank Farmer will be Stuart Reid from the West End production.

Meanwhile, at matinee performances the role of Rachel Marron will be played by Pop Idol finalist Zoe Birkett, who also plays the lead on August 21 and 22 evenings.

Tickets cost from £18 to £49.50, online at [www.birminghamhippodrome.com](http://www.birminghamhippodrome.com) or call 0844 338 5000.

## Big Bad role for Blue star

HE became one of the nation's favourite entertainers when he lined up on BBC TV's *Strictly Come Dancing* last autumn. But Blue singer Simon Webbe will feature in an altogether different role when he takes to the stage at Birmingham Town Hall until Sunday.

He will join stars from the worlds of pop, musical theatre and TV for a brand new family musical that's trotting into Birmingham before heading to London's West End.

Simon will huff and puff his way to the Town Hall for a new production of Stiles and Drewes' *The 3 Little Pigs*.

Simon is looking forward to the show because he has solid links with Birmingham, having gone to St Andrew's primary and Holy Trinity secondary school in Small Heath. He made his first ever stage performance at the Town Hall in a play called *Days Of Our Childhood*, and his is returning to the venue where it all started as the Big Bad Wolf in *3 Little Pigs*.

He said: "I've been burning the candle at both ends. It's been a busy year with the *Strictly* tour, with the release of Blue's new album and now this. *Strictly* was massive and it was a great tour. The last time I did an arena tour was with *The Big Reunion*. To witness those big crowds and to be a part of that was amazing. To get that standing ovation every night was an amazing feeling."

But right now he's looking forward to treading the boards in *3 Little Pigs*. "Everybody knows the story. This is the first time it's been brought alive by music and lyrics. The first read through I was in stitches. It's not taking it too seriously."

**'It's not taking it too seriously'**

### Top dramas coming to Midland stages

MAJOR dramas are coming to the West Midlands.

Birmingham Repertory Theatre leads the way with a bold look at our future monarch when Robert Powell plays King Charles III in Mike Bartlett's *Olivier Award* winning play in September. In October Meera Syal's novel *Anita And Me*, about an Asian girl growing up in a Staffordshire village, gets its stage debut with Mandeep Dhillon (from TV comedy *Some Girls*) in the lead role. Call 0121 236 4455.

The National Theatre's production of JB Priestley classic *An Inspector Calls*, directed by Billy Elliot's Stephen Daldry, is at Wolverhampton Grand in early February. Call 01902 429212.

### Comedy and shows for children at halls

COMEDIANS and children's TV are among the line-up of attractions at Dudley and Stourbridge town halls this autumn.

At Dudley the season kicks off with pun-spinning comic Milton Jones on October 2. Veteran comedian Duggie Brown presents a matinee *Good Old Days* of Variety show on October 13.

Superslam American Wrestling returns on October 29.

At Stourbridge Town Hall children's shows include *Tree Fu Tom* on September 26, Sid Sloane from cbeebies in *Sid's Show* on October 27 and a version of Julia Donaldson's *The Scarecrows' Wedding* on November 21. Call (01384) 812812.

### BGT opera singer in concert line-up

FIRST winner of Britain's Got Talent, opera singer Paul Potts, will be at Wolverhampton Grand Theatre as part of a line-up of new concerts with tickets on sale tomorrow (Friday).

The Port Talbot tenor will be in concert at the Lichfield Street venue with soprano Catriona Murray on Friday, October 16. *Strictly Come Dancing* pro Brendan Cole returns by popular demand with *A Night To Remember* on Friday, January 29. The nation's favourite Nancy, Jodie Prenger, stars in Andrew Lloyd Webber and Don Black's *Tell Me On A Sunday* on June 2, 2016. See [grandtheatre.co.uk](http://grandtheatre.co.uk) or call 01902 429212.

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**HOLIDAYING** in San Francisco and sinking my teeth into their incredible cheeseburgers at an In-N-Out Burger is a moment I'll always savour.

It was our first visit to the restaurant and, on a drab Sunday afternoon, it was nice to be warmly welcomed by a friendly American waitress. For a moment at least, it felt like we were back in sunny California. We were directed to a booth, given menus and our drinks orders taken.

Coast To Coast has a huge dining area and they've pulled off the American sports bar feel with aplomb. There's a Cheers-style bar area, strategically placed screens

showing Eurosport, and Aerosmith's *Dude (Looks Like a Lady)* blaring from the speakers. After a bit of a wait our drinks arrived and the waitress took our order. The menu features all-American classics from burgers and ribs to milkshakes.

I fancied the calamari to start but the other half insisted we go native and order the barbecue sharing board. At £16.95 it's not cheap so we expected a top-notch platter and what we got wasn't half bad.

The Boston prawns were enormous lobster-esque sized shellfish in a light batter. They were delish, particularly dipped in the Cajun spiced mayo, and I happily polished off the lot leaving the other half to make light work of the barbecue chicken wings.

"Plenty of meat on these," he said, appreciatively. The blue cheese chicken tenders

were also juicy and packed with flavour but the sticky ribs weren't hot enough.

Fingers were licked, empties were cleared and we waited just long enough for our main courses. My heart sank at the sight of my cheeseburger. I was expecting a meal straight out of Diners, Drive-in and Dives, or Man v Food: I wanted something epic.

Plated simply, it came with no garnishes other than a silver bucket of sweet potato fries and a pot of spicy ketchup dip. The burger itself looked a bit sad; the patty didn't fill the width of the bun making it look smaller and more shrivelled than it was. However, it tasted pretty good – not £11.95 worth and certainly not in the same league as In-N-Out Burger.

Sadly, the white-coloured cheese didn't really add much. The accompanying sweet

potato fries were spot on. Mister Emily fancied a couple of different burgers so opted for the trio of sliders with regular fries. He said all the burgers were 'OK' without going overboard, also mentioning that – because of their size – the buns were a touch dry and over-toasted. At £13.95 we felt again it was a bit overpriced.

We ordered a dessert to share – the chocolate brownie with Chantilly cream and honeycomb ice cream. The dish fell short of the mark. Rather than the crumbly, gooey, indulgent brownie we'd expected, it was more of a microwaved sponge drenched in artificial 'chocolate-flavour' sauce.

We left half and settled the bill, which came to £57 including three soft drinks.

We felt let down by the food; the prices were too high for average-quality fare. Sadly, for me at least, when it comes to burgers, I've left my heart in San Francisco.

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CHOICE



Sunetra Sarker (right)

**Casualty**  
**(BBC1, 9.10pm)**  
When a dad is given an ultimatum – move away with work or lose his job – Charlie helps him do the right thing for his daughter. A son attempts to break off his father's recent engagement to a younger fiancée and lands her in the Emergency Department, but Max is on hand to convince him to respect his father's decision. Meanwhile, Honey's plans to impress Ethan are ruined when Lily continues to pursue him, and Max and Zoe decide not to break the news of their engagement – but it soon gets out. William Beck, Chloe Howman, Sunetra Sarker, George Rainsford, Chelsee Healey, Amanda Mealing and Derek Thompson star.

BBC1

**6.00 Breakfast.** **10.00 Saturday Kitchen Live.** **11.30 The Box.** (R) **12.00 BBC News.** **Weather.** **12.15 Live Challenge Cup Rugby League.** **2.45 Live Women's FA Cup Football.** Chelsea Ladies v Notts County Ladies (Kick-off 3.00pm). **5.20 Pointless Celebrities.** (R)  
**6.05 BBC News.**  
**6.15 Regional Programme.**  
**6.25 Film: Raiders of the Lost Ark.** (1981) Archaeologist Indiana Jones tries to locate the Ark of the Covenant before the Nazis get their hands on it. Steven Spielberg's action adventure, with Harrison Ford and Karen Allen.  
**8.15 The National Lottery: Five Star Family Reunion.** A UK family and their long-lost overseas relatives must work together and answer questions to win a once-in-a-lifetime reunion in a five-star location. Includes the weekend draw.  
**9.10 Casualty.** When a dad is given an ultimatum – move away with work or lose his job – Charlie helps him do the right thing for his daughter. A son attempts to break off his father's recent engagement to a younger fiancée and lands her in the Emergency Department, but Max is on hand to convince him to respect his father's decision. Meanwhile, Honey's plans to impress Ethan are ruined when Lily continues to pursue him, and Max and Zoe decide not to break the news of their engagement – but it soon gets out.  
**10.00 BBC News.** **Weather.** **National Lottery Update.**  
**10.20 Mrs Brown's Boys.** Agnes goes on a diet after her family's comments about her weight, but soon realises how difficult it will be to lay off the fish and chips. (R)  
**10.50 Not Going Out.** Lee spends time in the bar with Toby worrying that the woman of his dreams is drifting farther away. Comedy, starring Lee Mack and Hugh Dennis. (R)  
**11.20 Film: Tropic Thunder.** (2008) The cast of a Vietnam War movie unknowingly wanders into the middle of a real-life conflict. Comedy, directed by and starring Ben Stiller, with Jack Black and Robert Downey Jr.  
**1.00 Weather for the Week Ahead.** **1.05 BBC News.**

BBC2

**6.25 Film: Tintin and the Mystery of the Golden Fleece.** (1961) **8.05 Film: The Maggie.** (1954) **9.35 Film: The Master of Ballantrae.** (1953) **11.00 Animal Park.** (R) **11.30 The Women's Football Show.** **12.00 Escape to the Continent.** **1.00 Athletics.** **2.00 Golf.** Women's British Open. Coverage of the third day at Trump Turnberry in South Ayrshire.  
**6.00 Cycling: Women's Grand Prix.** Action from the RideLondon Grand Prix in central London, which saw a field of elite riders compete on a looping 1.3-mile circuit around St James's Park. Great Britain's Laura Trott won the inaugural staging of this race in 2013, while Italy's Giorgia Bronzini claimed a thrilling victory last year courtesy of a sprint finish for the line.  
**7.00 Proms Extra.** Katie Derham looks at the past week of the proms, including Holst's The Planets and Mozart's last-ever symphony. Plus, percussionist Colin Currie performs exclusively in the studio.  
**7.40 Edwardian Farm.** Alex Langlands and Peter Ginn set sail on a fishing trip, steering a wind-powered vessel, casting a net and mastering sea shanties. Meanwhile, Ruth Goodman holds a seance. (R)  
**8.40 Dad's Army.** The men head off for a weekend at a training camp, but arrive late and hungry after Mainwaring's map-reading skills are found to be somewhat lacking. Comedy, starring Arthur Lowe. (R)  
**9.10 First Light.** Docu-drama based on the personal memoirs of Geoffrey Wellum, a young RAF pilot who fought in the Battle of Britain in 1940 with the legendary 92 Squadron. His experiences in combat serve as intense rites of passage, but as time goes by it becomes clear that the price of victory can often be an unbearable loss. Starring Sam Heughan. (R)  
**10.30 Mock the Week.** Dara Ó Briain presents a special compilation show featuring previously unbroadcast material, out-takes and favourite bits from the recent series of the satirical comedy quiz. (R)  
**11.00 Film: Ill Manors.** (2012) Premiere. Drama, with Riz Ahmed, Nick Sagar and Keith Coggins.  
**12.55 Film: The Quatermass Xperiment.** (1955) **2.15 This Is BBC Two.**

ITV

**6.00 CITV: The Aquabats!** Super Show! **6.25 Pat & Stan.** (R) **6.35 Dino Dan.** (R) **6.45 Dino Dan.** (R) **7.00 Canimals.** (R) **7.15 Sooty.** (R) **7.30 Super 4.** (R) **7.45 Fish Hooks.** **8.00 Young Justice: Invasion.** (R) **8.25 ITV News.** **8.30 Weekend.** **9.25 Murder, She Wrote.** (R) **10.20 The Jeremy Kyle Show.** (R) **12.25 The Jeremy Kyle Show.** (R) **12.35 Surprise Surprise.** (R) **2.35 The Chase.** (R) **3.30 All Star Family Fortunes.** (R) **4.15 Tipping Point.** (R) **5.15 Catchphrase.** (R)  
**6.00 Regional Programme: Weather.**  
**6.15 ITV News: Weather.**  
**6.30 Film: Mamma Mia!** (2008) A former member of a singing trio, now running a hotel on a Greek island, is reunited with her old bandmates for her daughter's wedding – but is surprised when three of her old flames also show up unexpectedly. The three men have been invited by the bride, who wants to find out which one of them is her father. Musical comedy, with a soundtrack of Abba songs, starring Meryl Streep, Pierce Brosnan, Julie Walters, Colin Firth, Stellan Skarsgård and Amanda Seyfried.  
**8.30 The Cube: Celebrity Special.** Comedian Katherine Ryan and retired footballer Fabrice Muamba take on The Cube in an attempt to win a £250,000 jackpot for charity.  
**9.35 The Nation's Favourite Queen Song.** The stories behind the legendary rock band's 20 greatest hits, as decided by the public. This countdown, narrated by Matt Lucas, features in-depth interviews with Queen's Brian May and Roger Taylor, celebrity fans including Katy Perry, Tony Hadley, Tom Fletcher, Noddy Holder and Tony Iommi, and some of those who were closest to singer Freddie Mercury. From Bohemian Rhapsody to We Are the Champions. Don't Stop Me Now to We Will Rock You, there are almost too many classics to choose from, but which one will take the top spot? (R)  
**11.00 ITV News: Weather.**  
**11.15 The Chase.** Bradley Walsh presents as four contestants answer general knowledge questions and work as a team to take on ruthless quiz genius the Chaser and secure a cash prize. (R)  
**12.15 Jackpot247.** **3.00 Ejector Seat.** (R) **3.50 ITV Nightscreen.**

CHANNEL 4

**6.20 How I Met Your Mother.** **6.45 Everybody Loves Raymond.** (R) **7.05 Everybody Loves Raymond.** (R) **7.30 The Grid.** **8.00 The Morning Line.** **9.00 Frasier.** (R) **9.30 Frasier.** (R) **10.00 The Big Bang Theory.** (R) **10.30 The Big Bang Theory.** (R) **11.00 The Big Bang Theory.** (R) **11.25 The Simpsons.** (R) **12.00 The Simpsons.** (R) **12.30 The Simpsons.** (R) **1.00 Rude(ish) Tube.** **1.30 Glorious Goodwood: Channel 4 Racing.** Live coverage from the Glorious Goodwood festival and Newmarket. **4.15 Come Dine with Me.** (R) **4.50 Come Dine with Me.** (R) **5.20 Come Dine with Me.** (R) **5.50 Come Dine with Me.** (R)  
**6.15 Come Dine with Me.** The final dinner party in Suffolk is hosted by anti-social behaviour officer Rachel, who hopes to win over her guests with an evening of comfort food and a few tricks up her sleeve. (R)  
**6.40 Channel 4 News.**  
**7.00 Homes by the Sea.** Architectural designer Charlie Luxton explores properties on the Kent and Sussex coasts, beginning at a home inspired by the seafront properties of Australian in Camber Sands. He also visits a home made from a converted railway carriage in Dungeness, a Martello tower in Dymchurch, and two properties in the town of Brighton.  
**8.00 Walking Through History: Nazi Occupation – Channel Islands.** Tony Robinson heads to Guernsey and Jersey to tell the story of the islands' surrender to Nazi Germany during the Second World War. (R)  
**9.00 Film: The Inbetweeners Movie.** (2011) Awkward teenagers Simon, Will, Jay and Neil plan a holiday to the Greek island of Crete after they finish their exams, hoping to experience drink, sex and debauchery beyond their wildest dreams. However, things do not quite work out as planned. Comedy based on the TV series, with Joe Thomas, Simon Bird, James Buckley and Blake Harrison.  
**11.00 Film: This Means War.** (2012) Two secret agents fall in love with the same woman and use their talents to sabotage each other's chances of romance. Comedy, with Reese Witherspoon.  
**12.50 The Last Leg.** (R) **1.45 Hollyoaks.** (R) **3.55 Double Your House for Half the Money.** (R) **4.55 You Deserve This House.** (R)

CHANNEL 5

**6.00 Milkshake!** **10.00 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles.** (R) **10.35 Cowboy Builders.** (R) **11.35 Cowboy Builders.** (R) **12.30 Cowboy Builders.** (R) **1.30 Film: Columbus.** The Greenhouse Jungle. (1972) Detective drama, starring Peter Falk. **3.00 The Dog Rescuers** with Alan Davies. (R) **4.00 The Nightmare Neighbour Next Door.** (R) **5.00 Nightmare Tenants.** Slum Landlords. (R)  
**6.00 Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away.** An insight into the world of debt collection from the perspectives of people who owe money, their creditors and those who collect the payments. High court eviction officer Kevin Stokes faces a physical assault, while Paul Bohill and his team deal with a difficult case involving a mother and daughter who are about to be left out on the street with nowhere to go. Last in the series. (R)  
**7.00 Cricket on 5.** England v Australia. Highlights of the fourth day's play in the Third Ashes Test at Edgbaston. Presented by Mark Nicholas.  
**7.55 5 News Weekend.**  
**8.00 Transporter: The Series.** Frank is hired to transport a stolen human heart for a crime kingpin seeking a suitable donor for his terminally ill son. But he is forced to weigh the worth of a human life when he finds out that the heart was intended for a dying boy in hospital. Previously seen on Spike.  
**9.00 Tut.** Part one of two. Historical epic chronicling pharaoh Tutankhamun's efforts to rule over his chaotic empire. With Egypt controlled by his advisor Ay, army leader General Horemheb and double-dealing high priest Amun, the 19-year-old king is eager to get to know the people whom he will soon be ruling. He sneaks out to Thebes, where he comes to the rescue of beautiful village girl Suhad, and is recruited into a band planning to fight the troublesome Mitanni. Starring Avon Jogia, Ben Kingsley and Kylie Bunbury.  
**11.35 Criminals: Caught on Camera.** Police officers use CCTV to monitor Soho's 100,000 nightly visitors, while the air support unit is called in when an armed gang goes on the rampage through Lambeth. (R)  
**12.10 SuperCasino.** **3.10 Police Interceptors.** (R) **4.50 Make It Big.** (R) **5.45 Angels of Jarm.** (R)

DIGITAL

**BBC Three**  
**7.00 Great Movie Mistakes** **7.15 Don't Tell the Bride** **8.15 Film: Little Fockers** (2010) **9.45 Russell Howard's Good News Extra** **11.15 Family Guy** **1.30 People Just Do Nothing** **2.00 Some Girls** **3.30 Young, Welsh and Pretty Skint** **4.00 Close**  
**BBC Four**  
**7.00 Natural World: The Real Jungle Book Bear** **8.00 Horizon: The Secret Life of the Cat** **9.00 The Young Montalbano** **11.00 Secret Voices of Hollywood** **12.30 Sing's Musicals** **1.30 Horizon: The Secret Life of the Cat** **2.30 Natural World: The Real Jungle Book Bear** **3.30 Close**  
**ITV2**  
**11.05 Take Me Out** **12.05 Catchphrase** **12.50 Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records** **1.20 Film: Beethoven** (1991) **3.05 Film: Scooby-Doo** (2002) **4.50 Film: The Mummy** (1999) **7.10 Film: Johnny English** (2003) **9.00 Film: Troy** (2004) **12.10 Film: Romy and Michele's High School Reunion** (1997) **2.00 Fake Reaction** **2.35 Teleshopping** **5.35 ITV2 Nightscreen**  
**ITV3**  
**11.40 Agatha Christie's Marple** **1.45 Wycliffe** **2.55 Agatha Christie's Marple** **5.00 Film: Columbus: Identity Crisis** (1975) **7.00 Doc Martin** **8.00 Lewis** **10.00 Agatha Christie's Marple** **12.00 Wire in the Blood** **1.30 Rising Damp** **1.55 Movies Now** **2.05 ITV3 Nightscreen** **2.30 Teleshopping**  
**ITV4**  
**11.00 Pawn Stars** **1.15 Film: No Name on the Bullet** (1959) **2.50 Film: Dreams** (1989) **5.00 Storage Wars** **6.00 Storage Wars: New York** **7.00 Storage Wars: Texas** **8.00 Film: Police Academy 3: Back in Training** (1986) **9.50 Film: US Marshals** (1998) **12.25 Film: Midnight Run** (1988) **2.35 Hogan's Heroes** **3.00 Teleshopping**  
**E4**  
**11.30 Melissa & Joey** **12.30 The Goldbergs** **1.30 How I Met Your Mother** **2.30 Brooklyn Nine-Nine** **3.00 The Big Bang Theory** **8.00 Film: The Adjustment Bureau** (2011) **11.05 Gogglebox** **12.40 Rude Tube: Ultimate Stunts** **1.45 Virtually Famous** **2.30 How I Met Your Mother** **3.15 Rules of Engagement** **4.05 The Cleveland Show** **4.25 Baby Daddy**  
**Film4**  
**1.00 Home Alone 2: Lost in New York** (1992) **3.20 Napoleon Dynamite** (2004) **5.10 Marmaduke** (2010) **6.50 Mission: Impossible** (1996) **9.00 Chronicle** (2012) **10.40 Dredd** (2012) **12.30 Shutter** (2008) **2.10 Strange Wilderness** (2008)

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## DIGITAL



Part two of the three. Tommy searches the backrooms of Brown's shadowy hideout for any sign of Jane, but discovers he will need to raise £1,000 to maintain his place in the gang. Tuppence goes undercover as Rita's maid, and discovers that she has received a mysterious package from Brown. The parcel is kept locked up and out of sight, but Tuppence is determined to find out what it contains. She also discovers that one of the diva's friends is an agent working for Carter, who continues to obstruct the couple's investigation. David Walliams, Jessica Raine, James Fleet, Alice Krige, Matthew Steer, Clarke Peters, Paul Brennen and Madeline Amiel star.

**12.15** Weather for the Week Ahead.  
**12.20** BBC News.

**1.20 Film:** X the Unknown. (1956) **2.40** Sign Zone: Countryfile. (R) **3.35** Holby City. (R) **4.35** This Is BBC Two.

**12.15** Jackpot247. **3.00** Motorsport UK. **3.50** ITV Nightscreen.

**11.05 Film: The Guard.** (2011)  
**12.55** Channel 4 Comedy Gala 2015:  
 Best Bits. (R) **1.45** Come Dine with Me.  
 (R) **4.05** Double Your House for Half the  
 Money. (R)

**12.35** Criminals: Caught on Camera. (R)  
**1.05** SuperCasino. **3.10** Under the Dome. (R) **4.00** House Doctor. (R)

Simpsons Movie (2007) **4.25** The Golden  
Compass (2007) **6.35** Mission:  
Impossible 2 (2000) **9.00** Men in Black II  
(2002) **10.45** Kick-Ass (2010) **1.00**  
Happy-Go-Lucky (2008) **3.25** Close

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FILM CHOICES

**MONDAY**  
**Profile for Murder, Channel 5, 3.15pm**  
A criminal profiler retires to live in California with her family and move on from the horrific crime that ended her career. Her idyllic life is shattered when she discovers the serial killer responsible has escaped from prison and is intent on terrorising her. Thriller, starring Nicki Aycox and Steve Bacic. (2013)

**TUESDAY**  
**Then She Found Me, BBC1, 11.35pm**  
A New York teacher faces a mid-life crisis after her husband leaves her and her adoptive mother dies. To confuse matters further, she embarks on a relationship with the father of one of her students at the same time as her birth mother. Comedy drama, starring Helen Hunt. (2007)

**WEDNESDAY**  
**Mona Lisa Smile, Channel 4, 2.30am**  
A conservative 1950s girls' school receives an unconventional addition to its teaching staff in the form of a free-spirited, bohemian art historian. Unfortunately, her fellow teachers frown on her newfangled ideas, while most of the students have no greater ambition in life than landing a rich husband. Drama, starring Julia Roberts. (2003)



**THURSDAY**  
**Gracie's Choice, Channel 5, 3.15pm**  
A caring teenager has looked after her younger brothers and sister all their lives, while their violent, alcoholic mother is unable to cope. When their parent's self-destructive behaviour goes too far, she campaigns to legally adopt her siblings, while also striving to complete her education. Fact-based drama, starring Kristen Bell. (2004)

**FRIDAY**  
**Mary Shelley's Frankenstein, BBC1, 11.15pm**  
An idealistic but obsessive scientist builds a living creature from the body parts of corpses, then abandons his creation to its fate. However, the monster survives, and tracks his creator down to make a sinister request. Gothic horror, directed by and starring Kenneth Branagh. (1994)

Drastic action to save artificial intelligence

Gadgets. We love them, don't we? From the humble can opener to something as hi-tech as a top-of-the-range mobile phone or tablet device, all our lives have been touched in some way by innovations.

Gadgets exist to make things easier, to allow us more leisure time than ever before and take away the stress or discomfort of annoying jobs.

A synthetic being resembling a human who can do all the tasks we can, but never complains or gets tired, is surely the ultimate tool. In Humans, we have seen them at work, but also learnt that not all of them are what they seem.

The drama has proved to be compelling stuff. Based on a Swedish TV series, it is set in a parallel universe, one that looks very much like our own, but with these synthetic people – or synths, as they are known – lending a hand.

At the centre of the story is Anita, a beautiful android who is not quite as she seems.

She's played by Gemma Chan, the programme's breakout star.

"I was attracted to playing Anita because I like a challenge," says the actress. "She is a very complex, multi-layered character but also, obviously, a character that isn't human."

"I read the scripts and loved them. Reading the first three, I just wanted to read more. I hadn't read anything like it and I'd never seen the subject of artificial intelligence approached in this way before. So that for me was really refreshing and it raised a lot of questions and lots of interesting themes."

Playing a glorified robot had its difficulties, including learning how to move.

"We have had a brilliant movement director called Dan O'Neill who has guided us from the start," explains Gemma. "Before we started filming we did a few weeks of what we called 'Synth School'. He really wanted a uniform language of movement for the synths to have, so every actor who played a synth had to go through it."

"Synths are basically machines and everything that they do is going to use up energy or battery power, so

everything they do has to have an economy. As an actor, it was about finding ways to do things that are actually very counter intuitive to how we would traditionally do things: so it was really learning all the basics, how to stand up, sit down, walk, turn a corner."

She adds: "The things that sound so easy but actually you have to really pare back your physicality and do it in the most economic way. It's really hard actually when you realise how many physical ticks you have and you have to kind of strip those back."

But, as regular viewers will already know, Anita isn't quite what she seems. Trapped inside her body is Mia, who has the human capability to feel emotions.

The final episode of the series sees Laura and the rest of the Hawkins family realise how much Mia means to them before putting their own lives on the line to save her and the rest of the 'human' synths from Hobbs.

Will they succeed, or is another twist in the tale – and, perhaps, a second series, on the horizon? Only time will tell.



Katherine Parkinson stars in Humans, Sunday, Channel 4, 9pm

BEST OF THE REST

**MONDAY**  
**Britain at the Bookies BBC1, 9pm**  
Is Britain going to the dogs? Well if you take the question literally, the answer is probably 'not as much as we used to. Takings are down for independent Romford greyhound bookie Doug Tyler, whose family have been in the business for over 60 years, as more and more of his punters now bet online and on other sports like football.

Meanwhile, in Slough, betting giant Coral is opening a new shop. Although the 30 shops closed last year, Coral plans to open 40 new ones in locations that promise to be more profitable. But their expansion plans aren't without their critics, and as they try to open a new branch in Hayes, Middlesex, near a YMCA, local opposition rallies against the plan. Also, as political pressure about the dangers of gambling addiction mount, the last episode explores how we arrived at our 24/7 betting culture, and what the future holds.

**Travel Guides**  
**ITV, 9pm**  
New series. Members of five British households review popular holiday destinations, giving their opinions on everything from the accommodation to the food and activities, with the first edition featuring

their views on Dubai in the United Arab Emirates. Burnley bar owner Linda and her painter husband Pete find not only the hotels but their prices 'out of this world', model Riah can't understand why Arabic women have to cover up, and hairdressers Craig and Stuart Chapman Blackwell are uncomfortable about travelling to a country where it's illegal to be gay. Johnny Vegas narrates.

**TUESDAY**  
**New Tricks BBC1, 9pm**  
New series. Part one of two. As the detective drama returns, Gerry is spooked by the discovery of UCOS's latest victim - a cop, whose body has lain untouched under a basement for 30 years. As accusations of police corruption and underhand dealings begin to surface, Gerry has to face up to some skeletons in his own closet and it's a race against time for the team to help before his murky past catches up with him. While babysitting his grandson, Gerry becomes convinced that only he holds the key to the investigation and goes Awol to uncover the

truth. Starring Denis Lawson, Nicholas Lyndhurst, Tamzin Outhwaite, Dennis Waterman, Anthony Calf and Tracy-Ann Oberman.

**WEDNESDAY**  
**The Great British Bake Off BBC1, 8pm**

New series. Twelve contestants begin the battle to be named Britain's best amateur baker, facing tasks devised by judges Mary Berry and Paul Hollywood, who have created 30 new challenges to test their baking skills and creativity. Their first signature challenge is to make a Madeira cake, before they attempt to bake a frosted walnut cake in the technical challenge. Day two of the contest sees the contestants going all out to try and impress the judges with their first showstopper, the Black Forest gâteau. Mel Giedroyc and Sue Perkins present. The Great British Bake Off: An Extra Slice is on Friday on BBC2 at 9pm.



BBQ Champ, Friday, ITV, 9pm

**THURSDAY**  
**Flockstars ITV, 8.30pm**  
Gabby Logan hosts this search to find Britain's best celebrity sheep-herder, as eight famous faces, including DJ Tony Blackburn, former Eternal singer Kelle Bryan, Corrie star Wendi Peters and Paralympian Lee Pearson, are paired with professional sheepdogs for a series of knockout trials testing skill, technique and discipline. Next to face the challenge are N-Dubz singer Fazer and Birds of a Feather actress Lesley Joseph, who are given intensive training before guiding Jack and Gyp around the course.

**FRIDAY**  
**BBQ Champ ITV, 9pm**  
Myleene Klass presents the second round of the contest as the seven remaining contestants take on the King of the Kebab challenge. South London youth worker Solomon tries to impress judges Adam Richman and Mark Blatchford with his spicy chicken kebab, while Gary creates an ambitious Fruits de Mer concoction and Nicola's trio of fish kebab risks sinking without trace. Later, a Seaside Sizzler challenge sees the contestants tasked to cook for families on the beach.

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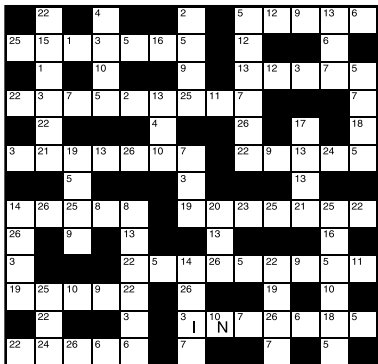
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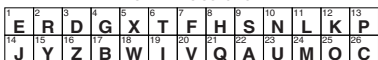
# BRAIN GYM No.335

## Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:



## Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

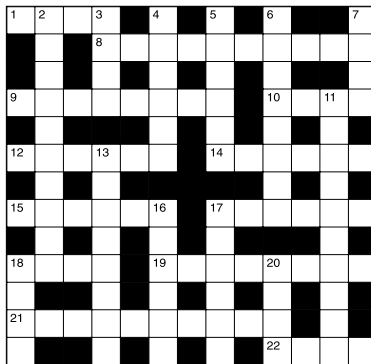
### Cryptic Clues:

#### Across

- Come a cropper in the cropping season? (4)
- Apropos the sign of possession... (10)
- ... be seen again to gather fruit (8)
- Shed players (4)
- It's obvious father can camp (6)
- Fearsome things almost - they can't be right! (6)
- Didn't get the desired husband? (6)
- Despises ship holding grain (6)
- The weather they have at Spithead at present (4)
- Flowers, perhaps (8)
- Failed to notice being in somebody's view (10)
- Favourites return at the interval (4)

#### Down

- Later change a can with nothing in it for a change (10)
- The French politician throws light on things (4)
- Powerful ring given for article in 12 (6)
- Averts disaster only to die of hunger (6)
- Entertainment with nothing but a musical composition (8)
- Master the rhythm? (4)
- A season in leap-year, no doubt (10)
- Tread was pointing to the rising sun (8)
- It may mean no treat when he treats! (6)
- Match action taken by workers (6)
- Tops up here (4)
- The last things to associate with odds (4)



### Quick Clues:

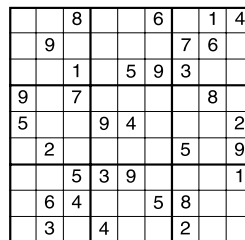
#### Across

- Girl (4)
- Ineffective (10)
- Footpath (8)
- Not new (4)
- Amuse (6)
- Marauder (6)
- Put in (6)
- Invent (6)
- Liability (4)
- Capsize (8)
- Confederate (10)
- Humble (4)

#### Down

- Disagreeing (2,8)
- Certain (4)
- Mourn (6)
- Railery (6)
- Light up (8)
- Old (4)
- Voters (10)
- Building (6)
- Company (6)
- Believe (6)
- Do business (4)
- Pour (4)

## Sudoku



Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

### LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >



LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS: CRYPTIC - Across: 7 Image; 8 Ironing; 9 Handsaw; 10 Locum; 12 Large print; 15 Rolling sea; 16 Eight; 19 Ordinal; 21 Find out; 22 Amiss. Down: 1 Light verse; 2 Maine; 3 Pens; 4 Bigwig; 5 Collapse; 6 Circuit; 11 Metabolism; 13 Aviation; 14 Elegant; 16 Ghosts; 17 Anvil; 20 Drag. QUICK - Across: 7 Touch; 8 Actions; 9 Tuneful; 10 Rider; 12 Settlement; 15 Evanescent; 18 Yearn; 19 Uniform; 21 Classic; 22 Learn. Down: 1 Stationery; 2 Funny; 3 Chef; 4 Tablet; 5 Surgeon; 6 Soldier; 11 Retirement; 13 Evenness; 14 Caravan; 16 Crutch; 17 Focal; 20 Idle.

## Quiz

- What nationality was detective writer Georges Simenon?
- In what year was the St. Valentine's Day massacre?
- What type of variety act was made popular by Edgar Bergen and Ray Alan?
- Who was born first, Yoko Ono or John Lennon?
- With which branch of science do you associate Copernicus?
- Which agricultural pioneer invented the seed drill?
- What was the real surname of American black muslim leader Malcolm X?
- From which country did the U.S. buy Florida?
- Of which country was Juan Peron the president?
- What does RADAR stand for?

### Last week's solutions:

Quiz: 1 Violin; 2 22; 3 Franklin D Roosevelt;

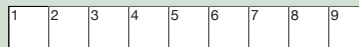
4 Hiram Maxim; 5 New Zealand; 6 Capability; 7 Ruritania; 8 1983; 9 The first men's and women's public flushing lavatories; 10 Escoffier.

Niner: HYPOCRITE

## Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

835 gives an animal,  
91529 gives a large bird,  
5362745 gives a baby bird.



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# Heritage card is big hit

By John Griffiths

**Motorcycles, as a breed, are much more subject to personal preferences than cars and like many riders I'd ideally like a stable of various types in the garage, to bring out depending on my mood that day.**

One of them would no doubt be a Triumph Bonneville, the modern incarnation of a legendary machine harking back to the days when British bikes ruled the world.

The latest Bonnie to roll out of the Triumph works at Hinckley in Leicestershire, looks, sounds and feels true to its illustrious ancestors. It's been updated and improved in many ways since the legendary name was revived in 2001 but its retro styling, a homage to the 1959 original, remains instantly recognisable.

Growing up in the 1960s the Bonnie was a young boy's dream, and continued as an object of desire long after most of Britain's motorcycle industry had been devastated by a wave of Japanese imports.

Since its revival 14 years ago by the 'new' Triumph Motorcycle Company it has survived in a market where models are frequently launched and replaced in little more than a year.

It still makes a significant contribution to the 50,000-plus machines a year leaving the factory gates, with the flagship T100, Thruxton cafe racer and scrambler variants adding to the standard machine's appeal.

Doubtless the nostalgia factor among bikers of a certain age is a major contributory factor to the Bonneville's longevity but

there's a lot more to it than that. Don't be fooled by that retro-styling: this is a thoroughly modern bike with computer-controlled fuel injection and disc brakes front and rear.

It's competitively priced (from £6,999) and relatively light and easy to handle, with adequate power for the experienced rider to have fun but not so much as to scare those with fewer miles under their belts. It makes an ideal 'first big bike'.

It also has a low 740mm seat height and a 'one size fits all' configuration which allows even those a bit shorter in the leg to feel secure and comfortable.

The engine is perhaps the perfect example of Triumph's 'old meets new' Bonneville design philosophy.

It's a traditional air-cooled twin (as opposed to the triple powering Triumph's latest adventure and sports models) and appears to have old-fashioned carburettors but in fact this is a specially forged housing for the throttle bodies and fuel injection system. Similarly it appears to have a pushrod tube at the front of the engine, even though it actually has double overhead cams.

The 865cc unit has 68PS of power and 68Nm of torque, much of it at lower revs so that power delivery is smooth and predictable across the range. It gives the Bonnie an easy-going, almost lazy nature akin to a cruiser, but with the ability to pick up its heels and go when circumstances dictate.

The bike gives the impression of being happy to run all day at motorway speeds, although even if it was legal you wouldn't want to go much faster since as the speed mounts so does the wind pressure on the rider. You could fit a screen, I suppose, but personally there's plenty of performance for British roads and I wouldn't want to spoil those classic good looks.



**'The latest Bonnie to roll out of the Triumph works at Hinckley, looks, sounds and feels true to its illustrious ancestors.'**

That has to be a big part of the Bonnie's appeal, along with features such as the peashooter exhaust, two chromed shocks at the rear, forged aluminium wheels and the shiny headlight housing.

The long, flat double seat fitted as standard means taller riders can easily shuffle about to find their most comfortable position, but the test bike came with the optional solo seat: large, beautifully shaped and comfortable enough to rival most big cruisers.

The Bonnie is no heavyweight at 225kgs (wet), and most of that is lower down than many rivals which contributes to its inher-

ent stability. The low height, wide, straightish bars, well-damped steering and smooth throttle operation add to the Bonnie's natural balance and make it confidence-inspiring for slow-speed riding in traffic. On the open road, handling through the twisty bits is neutral and assured.

There's a single 310mm disc at the front and a 255mm disc at the rear, providing plenty of braking power with sensitivity and 'feel' for the rider.

If Triumph wants to play the heritage card it's hard to think how they could have created a better modern interpretation of a true British classic.

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# Big brother, good or bad?

By Alasdair Suttie

**Some insurance companies want all cars fitted with a 'black box' to record our driving. Is this a good thing or Big Brother watching?**

We hear a lot about black box recorders in aeroplanes, but we will also be hearing a lot more in the near future about these mysterious devices for our cars.

Insurance companies are always looking at ways to reduce the number of claims and payouts they have to deal with. One way to do this is use black box recorders, or telematics to give it the correct name.

Just as with an aeroplane's black box recorder, the ones fitted to cars are able to measure distance, time and location.

This means they can also record speed, though insurers say this would only be taken into account in the event of a collision and drivers breaking the speed limit in normal driving would not be reported to the police.

However, by recording speed, time and location, black boxes can be used to assess the risk factor of a driver. This has been used to encourage young drivers to be more careful, particularly as they are the group most likely to be involved in a serious or fatal collision.

Using the hidden and tamper-proof black box to make sure young drivers are not on the road between certain times, usually from late at night till early in the morning, allows the insurer to offer a lower premium.

Young drivers are three times more likely to be involved in a serious or fatal collision

or make an insurance claim as a result of such an incident.

The black box can also measure the driver's style, showing if the driver is heavy on the throttle and brakes or smooth and progressive.

The smoother the driver, the more likely they are to enjoy a lower insurance premium. In many cases, the more careful driver can save up to a third on their insurance cost, as well as being less likely to be involved in a collision.

While some drivers object to their driving being monitored, it's expected that a quarter of all cars on the UK's roads will be fitted with a black box by 2020.

It's already a common practice among company car and van fleets because it lets the fleet manager assess the safety and eco driving skills of drivers in order to reduce running costs.

Drivers with a clean licence and no insurance claims may find a black box policy more expensive than their current insurance premium due to the cost of installing the technology.

However, for high-risk category drivers, such as the young and high mileage business drivers, or those driving in densely populated cities, a black box could help cut their insurance outgoings. For many in these groups, it will be a case of when rather than if they have to adopt this technology in their cars.

A spokesperson for the Association of British Insurers added: "Careful drivers have nothing to worry about from black box technology, whether they opt to have it installed or it is fitted as part of their insurance policy. Only bad driving will be penalised using the black box's information, so it pays to be a considerate, careful driver."



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# Hottest of hot hatches packing a big punch

By Ian Donaldson

**YOU know the answer before you ask, but can't help yourself; when will the horsepower race end?**

The answer, of course, is never. Or at least not until someone passes a law with a limit in mind.

Until then we'll continue to see cars like the latest Audi RS 3 Sportback, which within its compact and practical shape packs a 2.5 litre, 362bhp punch that will take the car to an astonishing 174mph, if you ask for the artificial speed limit to be switched off.

That costs £22,495 as part of an upgrade package. With the restrictor in place you will have to make do with a mere 155mph, which ought to be enough for anyone, and only reachable (lawfully and moderately safely, anyway) on a derestricted German motorway at the crack of a summer's dawn.

More useful in everyday performance terms is the time this well equipped tarmac terroriser takes to hit 62mph – the yardstick by which every car is measured, from shopping hatch to ground-pawing Lamborghini.

Well, this Audi takes 4.3 seconds. You couldn't pour a cup of coffee in that time, let alone look round to see if the Lambo is keeping up. This is a mind benderingly fast car, with the most powerful five-cylinder production engine in Audi RS history (and that layout has a lot of powerful history to call on).

This second generation A3 RS is, says its maker, the most powerful compact hatchback you can buy. It also costs more than a couple of other speedy Germans, in the shape of the VW Golf R (£32,890 in auto form) and the auto-only Mercedes-Benz A45 AMG (£38,195).

But crucially in the power race, both are less powerful than the Audi and both accelerate a little more slowly. We're talking blinks of eyes here, but in the rarified world of the hottest of hot hatches, fractions matter.

## Engineering

There can be little room for complaint about the Audi's equipment count. Apart from the serious engineering changes made to keep the car safe, reliable and (hopefully fun to drive) you will find big alloy wheels set in a body with flared wings, rear spoiler and touches of gloss black and matt aluminium to give visual clues to all that power.

Inside, there are gorgeous looking sports front seats covered in soft grey leather, alloy pedals, black faced instruments with red needles – even a lap timer for those daring adventures on the local race track. No satellite navigation as standard though, which looks mean at this price. A basic version is £495.

The power from the five-cylinder engine reaches the ground through Audi's quattro all-wheel drive system and an automatic seven speed dual-clutch gearbox, without the option of a DIY manual gear change.

Fancy disc brakes, more direct steering and specially adapted suspension are proof that Audi went much more than skin deep to produce this fire breather. Was it worth the effort, you now ask?

Well, yes. Even on badly pockmarked British roads the car gets a serious move on without feeling over firm, and is surprisingly compliant in the firm, dynamic mode of the optional (£995) magnetic ride and sports suspension.

On the short but so demanding twists of the Shelsley Walsh hill climb course, where Audi let us loose, it clung like a leech and hit 90mph at the end – on a track little wider than the car.

Out on the road the theoretical 34.9mpg fuel consumption became a real life 26mpg.

There is even a practical side to this car, with a big boot and room for two big adults in the rear, where the ride goes downhill a bit and coarsely surfaced roads set up a racket.

Up front, and especially at the wheel as the sports exhausts barks and pops in a racetrack way, your thoughts are on the road ahead, not the passenger sitting behind.



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# Stand out in the crowd

By Graham Breeze

**If you're a colour conscious motorist the Citroen DS3 is probably right up your street with a myriad of stand-out combinations to pick from.**

Personalisation is the name of the game and the French company has stepped up to the plate in a bid to win sales from Mini, Ford and Vauxhall.

This is probably the boldest bid yet by any company with 10 body colours, four potential roof colours and even the dash comes with a choice of five different colours.

You will have seen the DS3 on the road – there's simply no missing it – and that's just what Citroen had in mind when they launched this latest addition to the DS range. The 17" black alloy wheels are a really great feature. But don't be fooled into thinking that DS3 is just a styling exercise because that would be far from the truth.



In fact it's a really good car to drive and comes with a wide choice of very economical engines. The 1.6 DS3 DStyle Blue HDi 100 on test was an impressive performer with a top speed of 117mph and 0-62mph in 10.6 seconds but more importantly it produced around 80mpg over a week's motoring. I began to think the fuel gauge was stuck.

The turbocharged diesel matches looks with performance through a five-speed synchromesh manual gearbox and will impress those protecting our planet by only producing 87g/km of emissions thanks to a stop and start system that uses alternator management and energy recapture.

## Handling

I'm not sure what all that technical engine management-speak means, but it works and means you pay no road tax.

Sports suspension on the test model meant good handling but did have some passengers complaining about a hard ride. There was plenty of grip with precise steering and an all-round safe feeling.

The cabin is a great place to be and I simply love the use of colours, clever instrumentation appearance and metallic steering wheel controls – it's fun just to sit there and think "wow".

There's a neat seven inch touch screen control system, cruise control, tyre pressure monitor, exterior temperature display, a multi-function trip computer and simply stunning black panel night-time instrument lighting.

There's plenty of room up front but sadly rear passengers were not too happy with the leg room on offer, though entry to the three



**'Personalisation is the name of the game and the French company has stepped up to the plate.'**

door model is easy enough thanks to huge doors. There's probably just enough boot space for most, though not if you're a golfer.

There's more than enough safety packages on board with ABS and Electronic Stability Control and all-round curtain airbags as well as automatically activated hazard warning lights should you get into a bit of trouble.

The DS3 is competitively priced too. The

test car is available at £16,595 but front arm rests, roof colouring and parking sensors pushed that up to £17,195.

I would have expected the package to include a SatNav system alongside the DAB radio and Bluetooth system and although there's more than enough storage areas cup holders are nowhere to be found.

If you want to be seen out there get down to your local Citroen dealer now. The DS3 stands out in any crowd.

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\*CASH \* WAITING\*  
Immediate collection  
Call 07787 833 833

**music shop**

**TYROS YAMAHA** keyboard, in mint condition for sale. Call: 07946 389370

**holidays**

**holiday homes**

**HOLIDAY HOMES FOR SALE** Hobourne Devon Bay, massive summer savings, pitch fees inc, picturesque family holiday park Paignton prices from £10,995 to arrange appointment contact 01803 696276

**self catering holidays**

**BURNHAM-ON-SEA** Self catering holiday apartments disabled facilities pet friendly 01278 794111 www.GoSomerset.co.uk

**what's on**

**antique fairs**

**ANTIQUE/COLL FAIR** Kinner Cosm Centre, Sun, 2nd Aug. (also Bromsgrove every Fri) EST 1979, Waverley, 0121 550 4123. Next Book Fair, Sun 16th August.

**markets**

**BESCOT SUNDAY MARKET** OPEN EVERY SUNDAY

Bank's Stadium, Walsall FC W51 4SA, FREE PARKING, J9 M6 07889 975701 All hand standing

**WANTED**

**COMICS & CIGARETTE CARDS**

Plus bubblegum and football cards such as A&BC, Barratt etc. Also comics and annuals required. Beano, Dandy, Marvel and other interesting old comics. Pre 1970 please. Will collect. Good cash prices paid for full collections.

Text message to 07938 188610 or call 01952 253266

**HALCYON DAYS** presentation boxes required for private collector. 07973 236574 or 01902 456200

**READERS ARE ADVISED** to carefully consider all of their options before agreeing to the sale of any of their items.

## BFC FURNITURE

Open Everyday 10am-6pm  
Sunday 10-4  
SAVE 50% DIRECT FROM FACTORY

Divan beds from £49. Mattresses from £29. Ortho mats from £69. Memory foam mats £79. Metal fashion bed frames - singles £49, doubles £69. Bunk bed frames £99.

Recliner sofas  
MANY HALF PRICE

Leather and fabric chairs from £49 Sofas from £99. Suites from £299 100's of end of line & clearance bargains

**BFC FACTORY OUTLET** CONEYGE ROAD IND EST, GREAT BRIDGE RD, TIPTON DY4 7RG. VISA OFF 45MIN FROM NEW T550 & TORY CANYON  
0121 557 6885  
BIG CHOICE OF DINING FURNITURE

**in your garden**

**items for sale**

**HAVE YOU CHECKED** your advertisement today? We would respectfully remind advertisers that it is their responsibility to inform the publishers of any mistakes or inaccuracies on the first day of publication.

**CREAM ITALIAN** Leather corner unit. £250 ono.

Greenhouse 12ft x 8ft, buyer to dismantle £40 ono.

Other items include:-  
Fireplaces, Washbasins, Bath, Parquet Flooring, 1950's English Rose Kitchen.

01902 218153 / 07922 258412.

**WASHING MACHINE £75.** Electric single bed, £80. Electric armchair, £90. Italian corner unit, £40. Wheelchair, £40. Two Italian leather armchairs, nice condition, £15 each. 07950 418286.

**items wanted**

**ALL GOLD 9ct £300 per ounce**

**CASH PAID TODAY** A GENUINE LADY BUYER

All Beswick • Doulton • Worcester Moorcroft • Lladro • Old coins • Watches • Costume Jewellery • Old toys • Clocks • Paintings • All Silver • Chinese items • Old Ivory • Military items

Pre 47 silver coins All war medals etc  
ANYTHING OLD & INTERESTING  
01922 495066 or 07971 783206

**A BEST CASH PRICE**

**FOR ALL RAILWAY COLLECTIONS** Any gauge or age

Hornby/Bachmann/Bowmans/Roundhouse/Graham/Farsh/any live steam. Also Die Cast, Corgi, Dinky, Spot On. 0121 602 2569/07891 713547. thetrainmaster67@hotmail.com

**DIAMOND DRIVES Ltd** Block Paving - Patios - Graveling - Tarmacadam - Tar & Chip - Landscaping 01902 475056/ 0800 7723852 www.diamonddrivesltd.co.uk

**electrical services**

**STEVE JONES ELECTRICAL** Rewires/sockets/fuse boards etc. All domestic and commercial work. 07786 858977/01902 846167.

**fencing**

**PORTWAY FENCING** \*SPECIAL OFFER\* 10 Bays of quality fencing concrete posts, gravel boards & heavy duty panels supplied and fitted for £695.00

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Office: 0121 531 5250  
Mobile: 07866 137656

## t.v. / home entertainment

**service**

**AERIAL & TV SPECIALISTS** Free Estimates on any TV Repairs, Plasma, LCD, 3D, LED, Projection. All areas covered 8 till late. 7 days. Digital aerials, Sky installation. Wall mounts & TV setups. 07850 330251

**specialists at your service**

**aerials**

**AA DIGITAL AERIALS**

1 aerial into 2 rooms £90  
1 aerial into 4 rooms £130

**Work Guaranteed Same Day Service**

01902 858191  
01384 429166

VISA 01543 439095  
01922 716029  
07833 738857

**blinds**

**AB-Blinds** Super 7

7 Child Safe Verticals Fitted from only £199  
Call 0800 0347111  
www.ab-blinds.co.uk

**builders**

**D & T BUILDERS** All Building Work Undertaken. Free Quotes. 07516 751550 - 07463 849342

**building services**

**DAVIES & SON BUILDERS** Extensions, loft conversions, roofing, driveways. See us on 'Rated People'. Call 01902 579592 / 07837 994465

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**A CLASS CARPET & UPHOLSTERY CLEANING** OAP discount. Recession Prices. Unbeatable Value: Rooms cleaned from £10  
Call Paul 07870 341089

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**UPVC BACK DOORS** from £299, front doors from £389 fitted. Windows/Fascia's, 01922 442720.

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**fencing**

**PORTWAY FENCING** \*SPECIAL OFFER\* 10 Bays of quality fencing concrete posts, gravel boards & heavy duty panels supplied and fitted for £695.00

www.portwayfencing.com  
83 Portway Rd, Wednesbury, WU10 7DZ  
Office: 0121 531 5250  
Mobile: 07866 137656

## gardening services

**For all your Patio's, Turfing, Decking, treework and Root grinding...**

**Prestwood FENCING & LANDSCAPING**

Call us on: 01384 273586 or 07947 879403 or visit www.prestwoodfencing.co.uk for more details

**GARDENS TIDIED** from £5 per garden. 2 years experience. Call 01902 713106 / 07813 15408

**JEZ'S GARDEN SERVICES** Lawns cut, Borders, Garden clearances  
Trees lopped and shaped  
Fencing, Slabbing...  
Please call: 01384 403353 or 07929 600636

**house clearances**

**A ABSOLUTE BEST** cash price paid for house clearances and bereavements. Also removals undertaken. 07852 172641 / 07710 360327

**ABSOLUTELY ANYTHING CLEARED**

FULL OR PART GARGAES/ SHEDS, RUBBISH REMOVED WASTE LICENCE  
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**ALL ASPECTS** of commercial / domestic work. C&G qualified. Free quotes. Call 01902 324128.

**LOVE 2 WALLPAPER** Reliable & Friendly, Professional Family Painter and Decorator. Wallpaper is my speciality, competitive prices. For the Perfect Finish with minimum hassle. Plastering & Coving Work Undertaken 01384 287577 or 07812 484194

**removals**

**A & M CHEAP REMOVALS** Local Careful Firm Full or Part loads  
Call Don: 07749 941319

**A1 KINGSWINFORD REMOVALS & HOUSE CLEARANCES**

Single items, Full houses, Offices etc  
Recession rates, FREE QUOTES  
We take the stress away  
40 years experience  
07966 281957

**A MAN WITH A VAN** Single items, flat/house removals/clearances, local/nationwide, Call Steve 0121 422 2999 or 07815 043724

**CALL DEAN NOW:** For all your Removal needs. 07429 453209/ 01902 830870 / 01384 940260.

**CALL IAN:** Man with a large van. No job too small, no distance too far. 07973 628534. 01902 891535.

**CALL PETE - MAN WITH A VAN.** Removals, clearances, large/small. 01902 741546, 07899 635852.

**rendering**

**QUICK RESPONSE RENDERING** professional, reliable service. Call Stuart anytime, 01902 324727.

**roofing**

**MG ROOFING** Flat roofs, tiling, roof repairs. Call 01902 238899 / 07580 465449.

**PREMIER ROOFING** all aspects. 0121 332 7601 / 07875 387445. www.rooferwestmidlands.com

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**BIG JOHN MOVES RUBBISH!** No Skips, we load, fast friendly service, 25 Lister Rd, Dudley DY2 8JR, Est 35 years, 01384 232359.

**4 Pets & Animals**

**equestrian corner**

**ALL READERS** are advised to check if Horses have the required Passport information.

**GRAZING** for two ponies with stables, safe and secure. Sedgley, 01902 677658.

**guns & dogs**

**NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS** Advertisers must ensure that they meet all necessary legal requirements for owning and using guns.

**pets corner**

**GREYHOUNDS MAKE WONDERFUL PETS** All neutered, inoculated and chipped.  
Call Greyhound Trust 01922 412212 or www.rgtwolverhampton.co.uk

**NOTICE TO READERS** Please be aware that when purchasing a puppy there are some simple guidelines you can follow to ensure that you are not purchasing from a Puppy Farmer.

1. Try to ensure you visit the puppy whilst it is still with it's Mother.

2. Do not attempt to collect a puppy from any other location than that of the breeder.

3. Ensure that you are given any KC documentation, if pedigree. Whilst Midland News Association publications take great care to avoid publication of advertisements from Puppy Farmers we cannot accept any liability should readers purchase from this kind of establishment.

**BABY RABBITS**, 3 boys left, 3 quarter mini lop, 1 quarter neverland dwarf, ready now, £15 each. 07790 913262 (Coseley).

**RABBIT HUTCH** x 2, both with attached runs, 1 with storage unused £70 ono, 1 used, £45 ono. 01384 211073.

**LOOK**

**ROSEDEEN RESCUE CENTRE**

1, Radley Road, Rushall, Walsall, WS4 1LN. 01922 627013.





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**EVERYTIME!**

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30 YEARS EXPERIENCE

- We are a family run local business.
- Buying properties for over 30 years.
- A fair offer from people you can trust.
- No fees - Free solicitors.

*Call Stan on*

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or 01902 628047 24/7 [www.blackcountry-homes.co.uk](http://www.blackcountry-homes.co.uk)

**WE ALSO BUY LAND**  
commercial and industrial premises, shops, factories, building plots...  
*We'll even buy your garden*

**Text To GOAL 88802**  
and we will call you back now

**SOLD!**

**RAMSDENS Property**

**WE PAY CASH!**

**SOLD**

**SELL FAST**  
Property investor needs properties in your area  
Cash payments  
We will cover all your fees  
Quicker service

**AND GET A BETTER PRICE**

01922 689023  
0800 731 1160

# CASH NOW

## FOR YOUR HOUSE

- Legal fees paid
- Guaranteed offer
- Any condition
- No fees
- Repossessions stopped
- Subject to terms

# 01902 628060

# 0800 389 6788

Lines open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week

**wolverhampton properties**

# 2

**we can buy your house in**

**days**

**LOOK WE BUY ANY HOUSE**

**national homeowners helpline.co.uk**

in a mess? talk in confidence we can help

**WE PAY MORE ANY AREA ANY CONDITION**

24/7 **0800 085 6626**  
24/7 **0121 274 0398**

**pink run by women**

**sell quick**

- No Fees\*
- Any property
- Any condition
- Free confidential service
- Any area\*
- Repossessions stopped
- Deceased estates

**0800 169 1118 call free 24 hours 01384 226087**

**Private Investor**

We are looking for houses in your area. We will take any type of property in any condition. Call us first - highest prices paid

Telephone **01922 689023**

**straight forward investment solutions**

**I CAN BEAT ANY PRICE!**

I pay 100% of purchase price

Call now for the best price on your house

- Guaranteed offer\*
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- No fees\*

24 hours Free phone or landline **0800 783 2822**  
**01384 226086**

**Dewmark Homes**  
Part of the PI Group

**STOP WE PAY MORE!**

100% every time\*  
Free Solicitors No Fees\*  
**0800 313 4566**  
**01384 226086**

Any Property\*  
Any Condition\*  
PI Group  
\*Subject to terms

**+SICK**

of trying to sell your house  
Call the HOUSE DOCTOR  
Now for the best price  
**0800 783 3225**  
**01922 689023**

**A Better Cash Deal**

It's a simple as that, you get the best deal on your home from **FIRST GENERAL HOMES**

**0121 308 7786**  
**0800 917 1233**

**One phone call solves all your problems**  
sell your house now  
A guaranteed offer, no fees, fast completion, any condition, any circumstances

**01902 628047**  
**0800 633 5226**

**Sell your house**  
We are just a phone call away

- Any circumstances
- Any condition
- No fees - fast completion

**0800 066 5558**  
**0121 274 0398**

Cash paid for your property  
Guaranteed offer\*  
Free solicitors - no fees\*

call us **0800 085 2455**  
**0121 308 7786** 24/7

**Aston Wood Properties**

**Harrison Fowler**  
the name you can trust  
Any property, any condition  
FREE valuation  
FREE solicitors  
No obligation  
No fees  
Fast completion

**0800 587 2422 / 01902 628060 24 hours**

**STOP! problem property?**  
Structural problems, mine shafts, non standard construction, concrete properties, steel properties, rising ground rent, rising lease costs, Japanese Knotweed, subsidence, nothing worries us... we will buy your house whatever the problem

**0800 783 0008 / 01902 628059**

**I BUY ANY HOUSE 4 CASH QUICK AND EASY**

call Alex **0800 111 441**  
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Anytime

**STRAIGHT TALK**

**FAST CASH OFFER FOR YOUR HOUSE**

**0800 500 3109**  
**01902 628060**

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Buying property since 1984

**THE BEST OFFER ON YOUR HOUSE**

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**DON'T DELAY CALL TODAY**  
for a fast cash offer

**01384 226 087**  
**0800 633 5288**

**NO STRINGS**

Local Investor pays you more  
Call any time

**0800 633 5226 / 01922 689023**

**CALL PENNY for TOP PRICES NOW**

\*Local \*Honest \*Reliable

**0800 389 6788**  
**01384 226086**

**PICK UP the phone CALL NOW**

Best Price  
Sam

**01543 499032**  
**0800 500 3109**

**I WILL BUY YOUR HOUSE**

Call today for a best price

**0800 731 1160**  
**0121 274 0398**

**6 Property**

**properties wanted**

**A A PROPERTIES PAY A better cash price.** Call Richard 07756 022973.

**A BEAT ALL CASH DEAL**  
We pay 100% of purchase price always **0800 085 6626**.

**A BEST CASH DEAL PAID** for your property every time 01902 628047

**A LOCAL BUYER** pays full market value and more for your property. Call Rick 07729 297501

**ALWAYS CALL US FIRST** for the top price for your house. 0800 169 1118.

**FORGET THE BEST** and call me now for a best cash offer. 01543 499032

# Home Cash Buyer

Sell today, sign today, complete when u wish

**Ring Paul 24/7local on 07870 341 089**

**Sandwell Area Call 0121 696 4154**  
**Walsall & Cannock Area Call 01922 432049**  
**Wolverhampton Call 01902 489901**  
[www.homecashbuyer.co.uk](http://www.homecashbuyer.co.uk)

**HAVE CASH TO SPEND** on buying houses and I pay more than the rest, 01922 689023

**I BUY HOUSES** Any area, any condition. **FAST COMPLETION.** 01384 226087

**WE ALWAYS PAY MORE** for the best price now. Call Aardvark 0121 308 7786

**accommodation to let**

**NOTICE TO READERS** It is an offence under the Accommodation Agencies Act 1953, for an Agency to charge a fee simply for the registration of your requirements and/or supplying particulars of premises to let.

**ALDERLEY.** Single furnished flat, secure gated parking, £350pcm includes electric and CH. No DSS. Telephone 01902 374375.

**LIGHT AND SPACIOUS** 1-bed first floor flat, Wednesfield, no DSS, £460pcm. 07970 835891.

**RECENTLY REFURBISHED** 1 and 2 bed flats, Netherton, close to Merry Hill. DSS welcome. Call 01562 885668 or 07831 200692.

**overseas property**

**NOTICE TO READERS**  
Readers are advised to seek independent legal advice before entering into any financial commitments.

**property exchanges**

**ONE BED BUNGALOW** in Bradley, Bilston. Quiet cul-de-sac with front and back gardens.

Would like a 1-Bed Bungalow in the Stowlaw Estate, Wolverhampton or surrounding areas.  
**Call 07804 561782**

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**DSA QUALIFIED INSTRUCTORS**  
HGV C+E (ARTIC) & C (RIGID)  
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INITIAL CPC TRAINING & ADR  
CPC Periodic Training for PCV & LGV  
from 7th blocks - Full 35hrs

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**TOP GEAR**

**Driver Training**

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- 1-1 Gold Standard tuition
- Free Assessments
- CPC Courses
- Driver Medicals
- Caravan & Horse Box Tuition available

**0121 585 0834**  
[www.topgear-lgv.com](http://www.topgear-lgv.com)

**8 Motoring**

**cars over £1500**

**FORD FOCUS 2.0 TITANIUM SALOON AUTOMATIC**  
55 reg, petrol, MoT April, heated leather seats, parking sensors, alloy wheels, 58,000 miles, very good condition.

**£2,600 ono**  
**07807 869209.**

**FORD KA 1.3**  
31,000 miles. Two owners. 8 months MoT. FSH. £1,650.  
**07443 567011.**

**KIA CARENS 2.0** 2009, 30,000 genuine miles, really good condition. £3,250 ono. 07804 141966 / 01902 823097.

**LEXUS 450 hxd Hybrid**, 2006, 56, auto, blue, new shape, full leather, fully loaded, one owner from new, £6,250 ono. 07490 087526.

**MERCEDES A150 CLASSIC-SE**, 2008, 34,000 miles, black metallic, fish, long MoT, one lady owner, excellent condition. £3,995.  
**07703 722843.**

**NISSAN FIGARO CONVERTIBLE**  
Low mileage, 1991, automatic, turbo, MoT, lady owner, very good condition.  
**£5,500.**  
**07741 623772.**

**TOYOTA YARIS 1.0**  
Black, 2 door, hatchback, very good condition, 60k miles, CD player, a/c, power steering, fish, MoT, electric front windows.  
**£2,900 ono.**  
**Telephone 07525 396370.**

**VAUXHALL INSIGNIA EXCLUSIV**, 1.8, petrol, 12 reg, MoT June 2016, FSH, silver, 50,000 miles, lovely car, sale due to company car.  
**Bargain price £6,250.**  
**07866 324999.** Sedgley.

**SMART FOR TWO PASSION**  
2007, 61,000 miles, 1 owner, 6-speed, turbo, cheap tax £30 per annum.  
**£2,400.**  
**07862 252647.**

**RENAULT GRAND SCENIC 1.9DCI DYNAMIQUE**  
2004, 85k miles, Renault fish, keyless entry, panoramic roof, recent cambelt, Disc and pads. Long MoT, lady owner, 7 seats.  
**£2,100.**  
**07446 153957.**

**1ST TO SEE WILL BUY**

**RENAULT CLIO DYNAMIQUE MK3. 1.4 2006.**  
Black. 66,000 miles.  
Reliable. Excellent condition. FSH, 12 months MoT. A/C. New brakes. New cam belt. Major service. CD player. Parking sensors. Spare key. Company car due.  
**£2,150 ono.**  
**01902 844155.**

**1ST TO SEE WILL BUY**

**RENAULT GRAND SCENIC 1.9DCI DYNAMIQUE**  
2004, 85k miles, Renault fish, keyless entry, panoramic roof, recent cambelt, Disc and pads. Long MoT, lady owner, 7 seats.  
**£2,100.**  
**07446 153957.**

**SMART FOR TWO PASSION**  
2007, 61,000 miles, 1 owner, 6-speed, turbo, cheap tax £30 per annum.  
**£2,400.**  
**07862 252647.**

**TOYOTA YARIS 1.0**  
Black, 2 door, hatchback, very good condition, 60k miles, CD player, a/c, power steering, fish, MoT, electric front windows.  
**£2,900 ono.**  
**Telephone 07525 396370.**

**VAUXHALL INSIGNIA EXCLUSIV**, 1.8, petrol, 12 reg, MoT June 2016, FSH, silver, 50,000 miles, lovely car, sale due to company car.  
**Bargain price £6,250.**  
**07866 324999.** Sedgley.

**CITROEN C1 RHYTHM** 4 dr, 2005, FSH, MoT till Oct £1,200. o.n.o. 01902 372028 or 07974 977887.

**CITROEN SAXO 1.1** 2000, 5dr, yellow, MoT December, 74,000 miles, very good condition £550.  
**07914 941799.**

**FIAT PUNTO 1.2**  
5dr, 2002, 62,000 miles, MoT July 2016, electric windows, central locking, CD player, gold, immaculate  
**£695.**  
**07939 498854.**

**FORD FIESTA 1.2** 2004, 3-dr hatch, silver, new cambelt has been fitted this year. Good condition. MoT Sep. £750. ono. Perton: 07554 242826.

**VAUXHALL INSIGNIA** 2010, 2.0CDTi SRi, (160bhp), 5 door, diesel, silver, hatchback, MoT, excellent condition, fish, 74k, £6,195 ono. 07815 435331.

**VW POLO TWIST 1.9 Diesel**, 54 reg, 75,000 miles, silver, MoT November, Good condition. £2,200.

**VW TOURAN TDi 2004**  
96k, 2 owners from new, MoT till 03/16. Usual VW extras A/C, CC, radio/cd, RCL, PAS, ESP, alarmed, alloys, New cambelt 2012, FSH, 5-seater.  
**£2,250.**  
**Telephone 07815 592632**

**ADVERTISERS ARE REMINDED**  
that the Business Advertisements (Disclosure) Order of 1977 requires that advertisements must clearly differentiate between Private and Trade.

**BMW 316 COMPACT AUTOMATIC, 2000,**  
W reg, MoT, Service History. Excellent condition.  
**£950 ono.**  
**01384 823449.**

**MAZDA 6 SERIES 2.0** petrol auto, 2007 sportback, 87k, very good condition, very reliable, £1,400. 07474 371548.

**MERCEDES 190E 1.8 AUTO**, K reg, 121,000k, MoT Oct 2015. New tyres, brakes and battery and exhaust. £550 ono. 01384 279632.

**NISSAN PRIMERA**, 1998, turbo diesel, 135,000 miles, blue, alarm, long MoT, central locking, pas, diesel, alloys, CD player, £425. 07929 438597.

**VAUXHALL INSIGNIA** 2010, 2.0CDTi SRi, (160bhp), 5 door, diesel, silver, hatchback, MoT, excellent condition, fish, 74k, £6,195 ono. 07815 435331.

**VW POLO TWIST 1.9 Diesel**, 54 reg, 75,000 miles, silver, MoT November, Good condition. £2,200.

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**NISSAN PRIMERA**, 1998, turbo diesel, 135,000 miles, blue, alarm, long MoT, central locking, pas, diesel, alloys, CD player, £425. 07929 438597.

**PEUGEOT 206 1.4GLX**, 5 door, MoT, MoT October, clean and tidy, £395.

**RENAULT CLIO** 1999, 1.2, MoT Nov, 126,000 miles, good reliable and economical car. £295 ono. For more details 07990 516635.

**RENAULT CLIO** 1999, 1.2, MoT Nov, 126,000 miles, good reliable and economical car. £375 ono. For more details 07990 516635.

**FORD KA 03**, black, long MoT, ideal 1st car. £795 ono.  
**07471 476332**

**FORD MONDEO**  
2000, 2.0 Zetec, alloys, good condition, 6 months MoT, very low miles, only 50,000. £495 ono.  
**07801 597263.**

**FORD MONDEO ST200**  
2000, 120k miles, Imperial blue, fish, long MoT, Phone, great condition. Wheels refurbed. No rust. Drives perfect, very well looked after.  
**£1,500, o.n.o.**  
**Telephone 07446 153957**

**FORD MONDEO DIESEL 2.0 GHIA X ESTATE**  
04 reg, silver, 6 speed, abs, heated seats, alloys, parking sensors, folding mirrors, s/h, 140k, long MoT, drives well.  
**£1,250.**  
**Telephone 01384 258061**

**HONDA CRV** 2000, 131,000 miles, black, good condition, long MoT, auto, sunroof, new cambelt and battery. £550 ono. 01384 279632.

**JAGUAR S TYPE**, 2002, V8, auto, silver, 11 months MoT, excellent condition, £1,200 ono. 01902 258239.

**MAZDA 6 SERIES 2.0** petrol auto, 2007 sportback, 87k, very good condition, very reliable, £1,400. 07474 371548.

**MERCEDES 190E 1.8 AUTO**, K reg, 121,000k, MoT Oct 2015. New tyres, brakes and battery and exhaust. £550 ono. 01384 279632.

**NISSAN PRIMERA**, 1998, turbo diesel, 135,000 miles, blue, alarm, long MoT, central locking, pas, diesel, alloys, CD player, £425. 07929 438597.

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96k, 2 owners from new, MoT till 03/16. Usual VW extras A/C, CC, radio/cd, RCL, PAS, ESP, alarmed, alloys, New cambelt 2012, FSH, 5-seater.  
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**NISSAN PRIMERA**, 1998, turbo diesel, 135,000 miles, blue, alarm, long MoT, central locking, pas, diesel, alloys, CD player, £425. 07929 438597.

**PEUGEOT 206 1.4GLX**, 5 door, MoT, MoT October, clean and tidy, £395.

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**RENAULT SCENIC DYNAMIQUE 1.6**  
56 reg, 70,000 miles, metallic gold, 5 door, hatch, 2 owners from new, fsh, MoT April 2016, CD, c/l, alarm, a/c.  
£1,400.  
Telephone 07954 419531.

**ROVER 45 2.5 V6**  
Connoisseur  
Auto, 10 months MoT, 81,000 miles, dark blue.  
Illness forces sale.  
£375.  
07702 454630.

**ROVER 45 IMPRESSION 1.6**, 2001, 80,261 miles, red, petrol, MoT May 2016, abs, air con, alarm, CD, £550 ono. 07732 399413.

**V W BEETLE** 2002, 91,000 miles, silver, electric windows, long MoT, metallic paint, alloys. £1,495 ono. 07754 557861.

**VAUXHALL CORSA 1.2**, 3 door, 54 reg, service history, excellent condition, £895.  
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**9 Local Information**

## public & legal notices

**LEGAL / PUBLIC NOTICES**  
For convenience you may fax any advertising requirements to Marie Hogg on 01902 713146 or email marie.hogg@expressandstar.co.uk (remember to include a name/contact number for confirmation of receipt)

**JEAN BARBARA SMITH (Deceased)**  
Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the aforementioned deceased, late of 6 The Grazings Redwood Road Stourbridge DY7 6JH, who died on 29/04/2015, are required to send particulars thereof in writing to the undersigned Solicitors on or before 09/10/2015, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to claims and interests of which they have had notice.  
**GORVINS SOLICITORS**  
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Stockport SK1 1TA

## public & legal notices

**Staffordshire County Council**

**NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR PLANNING PERMISSION THE TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE) (ENGLAND) ORDER 2015 - ARTICLE 15(3)**

Application Number: SS.15/08/629 W

Severn Trent PLC application for proposed construction and operation of an anaerobic digestion facility at Land at Roundhill Sewage Treatment Works, Roundhill, Staffordshire and the proposed development may not accord with the provisions of the development plan in force in the area in which the land to which the application relates is situated as land lies within the Green Belt.

The proposed development affects Public Footpath No.99 Kinver Parish. Members of the public may view the submitted application, plans and other documents via the Staffordshire Planning web page [www.staffordshire.gov.uk/planning](http://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/planning) ('Find a current application'). Anyone who wishes to make representations about this application should do so no later than 20 August 2015 by commenting on-line via the Staffordshire Planning web page; by emailing to [planning@staffordshire.gov.uk](mailto:planning@staffordshire.gov.uk); or, by writing to Planning, Policy & Development Control, Staffordshire County Council, 2 Staffordshire Place, Tipping Street, Stafford, ST16 2DH. Please note: all comments and representations received in writing will be taken into account and are open to be read by all.

Signed: Darryl Evers on behalf of Staffordshire County Council  
Date: 30 July 2015

**10 Personals**

## personal

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I enjoy the cinema, meals out, walking etc.  
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**stars**

**WITHYMOOR COLTS SOUTH UNDER 13's**

Season 2015/16, school year 8 September.

After being promoted as runners up from division 3 last season and moving from 9 to 11 a side, we are looking for 2 or 3 experienced outfield players to add to our current squad.

If interested please contact Daniel on 07767 684557.

**WITHYMOOR COLTS WEST UNDER 9'S**

Season 2015/16, school year 4 in September.

We are looking for a goalkeeper and an outfield player to add to our talented and fun team.

If interested please contact Daniel on 07767 684557.

**LOOKING FOR AN OLD FRIEND**  
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**general**

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\*The 'star' price includes breakfast for one person – see brochure for details.  
Single rooms subject to availability – supplements apply.

Organised by Omega Events Ltd (ABTA V5903)



For a theatre brochure please call the promotions team on (01902) 319999 (Monday to Friday, 9am-5pm),

or go to [expressandstar.com/starextratrans](http://expressandstar.com/starextratrans)  
Please read brochure/web page for full information plus terms and conditions



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**FEMALE** seeking gent 55-70, down to earth, nice and intelligent who knows how to treat a lady. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417195

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**MID** naughty forties female looking fun, thrills and discreet meets, give me a call, you won't be disappointed. Any age with own accommodation. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409109

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**FEMALE**, 36, looking for a genuine guy to wine and dine me with lots of laughter and fun times. Text only to Mailbox No: 4758012

**JULIE**, attractive early 40's brunette, size 10, varied interests, WLTm male for fun times, good conversations, spoiling and maybe more, status unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418007

**JANE**, 47, voluptuous female, long hair, brown eyes, generous curves, would love to spend cosy nights in with that special male. Age/looks unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417985

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**MICHELLE**, 37, pretty, very fit, well travelled seeks active, broadminded male to share new experiences and adventures with. ACA. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417651

**SANDY**, mature, very young looking widow seeks fit young man to enjoy fun, cuddles and kisses. Call me. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417581

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**SUSANNAH**, 48, curvy female, romantic, warm and cuddly, seeks similar kind male for a loving relationship with lots of cuddles and kisses. Looks unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417341

**SUSANNAH**, 48, curvy female, romantic, warm and cuddly, seeks similar kind male for a loving relationship with lots of cuddles and kisses. Looks unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417341

**JEAN**, shy brunette with lots of love to give to the right man, seeks mature male to share relationship with. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417285

**GWEN** 38, large breasted, seeks Indian/Pakistani/Kurdish male for daytime fun. Can Travel/acommod. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417233

**FUN** loving and independent hot woman looking for a sexy man for fun and maybe more. Dark and grey hair preferable! Text only to Mailbox No: 470917

**KAREN** 5ft Sins, blonde hair, blue eyes, slim, seeks male. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416337

**SLIM** fair-haired lady, 54, looking for a male 30 to 40 for LTR in Warwickshire area. Text Only Mailbox Box No: 4527227

**SUSAN** 44, stunning curly blonde, fit and active seeks happy go lucky male for good conversation, fun times, maybe more. ACA. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416801

**STELLA** 50, gorgeous, voluptuous and all woman seeks sensual older male, who knows just what he wants for lots of naughty fun and TLC. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416707

**PAULA** 40, sensual, young at heart brunette looking for some fun and romance with a tall outgoing male. Call if you feel the same. ACA. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416681

**VAL** 41, pretty, cuddly, flirt, seeks similar fun loving male for an uncomplicated no strings relationship. Age/looks unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416621

**EILEEN** 49, lovely brunette, adventurous and eager to please seeks intelligent male to share the fun side of life together. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416521

**CHRISTINE** 48, shy sensitive brunette looking for lively older male to make her smile again and bring back some passion. S. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416519

**BEAUTIFUL** full figured, down to earth black woman, 37, looking for some serious fun with an experienced, confident, older guy. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416499

**SINCERE** lady, seeks similar gent, widower preferred, 60-67, 5ft 6ins, so slightly taller than me, N/S, car owner and likes a dog. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416474

**KAREN** 5ft Sins, blonde hair, blue eyes, slim, seeks male. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416337

**JUNE** 50, beautiful, funny, warm, young looking blonde WLTm attractive down to earth male for no strings fun, laughter and love. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416299

**SHELLY** 36, tiny shy brunette seeks down to earth, sensitive, older male to snuggle up, share a bottle of wine with and pamper. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416235

**KATHERINE**, romantic, slim, feminine, loves to live life to the full, seeks adventurous outgoing male to appreciate and share life with. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417091

**SHERRIE** 32, blonde, great company, loves going out, looking to share life with that special someone. Status/Looks/age unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417067

**KAREN** 50, blonde hair, blue eyes, slim, GSOH, loving, caring, understanding, seeking similar male, 55-55. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416989

**KAREN** 5ft Sins, blonde hair, blue eyes, slim, seeks male. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416337

**THELMA**, 43, attractive blonde, seeks loving, honest, funny male to pamper and make happy. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416979

**FEMALE**, kind caring and loving seeks similar male for relationship text only all texts answered. Text only Mailbox No: 465519

**Pretty** slim female, 48, N/S, no ties, seeks tall, slim level headed male for initial friendship and evenings out. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416727

**FEMALE**, kind caring and loving seeks similar male for relationship text only all texts answered. Text only Mailbox No: 465519

**Hi my name is Zara**. I am 5ft 4ins, slim build, I am looking for a genuine male aged between 45 and 50 with GSOH who enjoys going out. Text only Mailbox No: 4362903

**THELMA**, 43, attractive blonde, seeks loving, honest, funny male to pamper and make happy. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416979

**DAWN** attractive, easygoing, and dazzling, WLTm well built mature male for fun loving no strings romance. Status unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416917

**MID** naughty forties female looking fun, thrills and discreet meets, give me a call, you won't be disappointed. Any age with own accommodation. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409109

**KAREN** medium build, blonde hair, 5ft Sins, seeks male, 50-58, GSOH, loving, caring and understanding. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 415429

**MARIA** gorgeous leggy blonde seeks tall professional male for fun nights out, cosy nights in with plenty of TLC and romance. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416861

**SUSAN** 44, stunning curly blonde, fit and active seeks happy go lucky male for good conversation, fun times, maybe more. ACA. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416801

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**KAREN** 50, blonde hair, blue eyes, slim, GSOH, loving, caring, understanding, seeking similar male, 55-55. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416989

**ALICE** 36, tall and slim with long brown hair, outgoing and sporty seeks funny, intelligent guy to share active days and cosy nights. Age/looks not important. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416087

**DIANE** 37, sensual, tactile and loving seeks tall male for interesting conversations and cosy intimate nights together. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416085

**BRIDGET** 48, voluptuous, seductive and very saucy, seeks male for lots of TLC and to make very happy in return. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416085

**ATTRACTIVE** tall, dark, professional gent, GSOH, likes sports, socialising, good company, seeking female with GSOH for laughs, conversation and maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 415969

**KAREN** 50, widow, 5ft Sins, blonde hair, blue eyes, slim, seeks male with GSOH, loving, caring and understanding. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 415871

**GWEN** middle aged, 65-75, 5ft 2ins, likes theatre, country music, holidays, seeks N/S male. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 415785

**ASIA** very attractive slim single black 32yr female looking for fun times with god time guy with GSOH and a real passion for life and falling in love. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 415837

**SARAH** 31yrs looking for casual 1-2-1 no strings fun with broadminded bore male. Status unimportant, discretion and mutual respect essential. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 415821

**LINDA** uncomplicated female who loves the simple things in life, looking for N/S male with GSOH for nights in/out, no games, users or time wasters please. S. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 415535

**PATRICIA** widow 67, likes simple pleasures in life, seeks gent, N/S for friendship/companionship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 415668

**KAREN** 50, widow, blonde hair, GSOH, 5ft Sins, slim, seeks male. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 415767

**GEM** 34yr old pretty brunette with lovely big eyes and nice skin, many interests, WLTm kind tallish male, 30-50yrs for serious relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 415571

**SYLVIA** attractive blonde size 12 45yr old female looking for genuine companionship, someone to spend quality times with, enjoy music and cosy times together. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 415543

**HOME** alone for too long often, attractive bubbly fun good time girl 32yrs seeking male 30-50yrs for broadminded daytime fun. Let's rid the boredom! Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 415523

**SUE** attractive, independent, confident female, sporty, petite, loves the Arts, good books, looking for romantic, sensitive nice guy for nice times together. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 415501

**KAREN** medium build, blonde hair, 5ft Sins, seeks male, 50-58, GSOH, loving, caring and understanding. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 415429

**AMANDA** 5ft 4ins slim fit attractive, enjoys the outdoors, nice wine, theatre etc, seeking romantic considerate soul mate to broaden my horizons. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 415391

**SAM** attractive single mum who really enjoys life and likes to be happy WLTm genuine single male/dad for mutual companionship, dates in/out and TLC. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 415381

**REMEMBER:** Calls cost £1.55 per minute plus network extras. Texts cost £1.50 per message sent.

**PAUL**



## Baggies are most watched TV team in the borough

ARMCHAIR pundits in Dudley are more like to watch an Albion match on TV than any other Premier League team, a study has claimed.

Research carried out by broadcaster Sky Sports discovered more live Baggies games were watched in the borough than any other team in the top flight.

And while that might not sound the most surprising news, considering Dudley's proximity to The Hawthorns, Albion were one of only eight clubs to maintain a stronghold out of 118 postcode regions included in the study.

Elsewhere in the Black Country and the Midlands, Manchester United ruled the roost, emerging as the most watched club in Birmingham, Wolverhampton and Walsall.

The broadcaster analysed the viewing habits of 500,000 viewers across the country to find out which Premier League team had been watched live three or more times the most often.

United led the way in 49 regions with Arsenal the most popular in 33 and Liverpool next on 21.

Chelsea, Newcastle, Albion, Swansea and Leicester could also boast their own regional strongholds, with the latter somewhat bizarrely emerging as the most-watched team by viewers in the Outer Hebrides.

Sky Sports' head of sports and news research Matthew Roberts said: "Arsenal really do dominate the south east and several areas in Scotland enjoy watching Chelsea more than any other Premier League team, while Manchester United and Liverpool really do enjoy support across the UK."

## Jordan took 10 seconds to choose Villa

JORDAN Ayew took just 10 seconds to decide his transfer from Lorient to Villa was the right thing to do.

The 23-year-old has put pen to paper on a five-year deal after the two clubs agreed an undisclosed fee., thought to be in the region of £9million

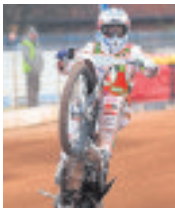
Ayew scored 13 goals in the French top flight last season. He has also won 28 international caps for Ghana, scoring eight times.

"I'm the happiest man in the world - it's one of my greatest days in football," he said.

"My dream was to play for a big team in England.

"When I spoke to Tim Sherwood I knew this was the place for me. It took 10 seconds to work out he was the right coach and Aston Villa the right team for me."

# Heathens looking for revenge



Skipper Max Clegg

HEATHENS skipper Max Clegg insists his side are capable of gaining revenge on Birmingham at Perry Barr next Wednesday.

Cradley go into the 'away' National League clash with their track sharing rivals on the back of a home defeat at their hands in May.

Having slipped 15 points behind Birmingham in the title race at the time of going to print, Clegg knows nothing less than a win will do as they aim to keep their hopes of a third successive National League triumph alive.

However, he is adamant they have what

it takes to pull off a dramatic surge to the top of the table - starting with a victory on Wednesday.

"It's going to be tough for us, Birmingham have been going well, but we know we can beat them," Clegg said.

"They are quite a long way ahead of us in the league so if we are going to win the title we know we need to get a good result.

"We just need everyone to focus and be on top of their game.

"We had a tough spell but we've had two really good wins against Stoke and Buxton which has given us confidence.

"It wasn't just the fact we won, it's that we won pretty convincingly and looked like we were back riding at our best, like we were at the start of the season.

"A lot of us have been winning races and feeling confident, so we just need to do the same again and I think we can come out on top.

"It's going to be a close meeting, but if we can get the win then it puts the pressure on them and puts us right back in it, so we are really desperate to do well.

Children get in free and the action starts at 7.30and Cradley season tickets do apply.

## Edwards relishing his role as team elder

WOLVES' most senior player Dave Edwards is relishing being the elder statesman of the club - aged just 29.

The departures of Kevin Doyle, Sam Ricketts and Tomasz Kuszczak have suddenly made Shrewsbury-born Edwards a veteran in Wolves terms.

Boss Kenny Jackett has long extolled the virtues of youth and vitality in his squad and seems to be taking that to new extremes with Wolves' average age rapidly decreasing.

And Edwards, who recently stated his desire to extend a contract that runs out next summer, welcomed his new situation.

"I'm the oldest player in the squad at 29, which seems bizarre - but I do enjoy it, I relish that role," he said.

"I'm maturing as a player and I feel my best years will be the next three or four of my career.

"Even though I missed a bit of football where I was perhaps only playing 15-20 games a season through injuries and selection, I've played over 400 games now.

"I feel like those years will prolong my career.

"I've found a formula that keeps me fit and I'm being professional in terms of how I handle myself off the pitch.

"It's a huge club and if I'm considered one of the leaders it's amazing for me."

Edwards wore the captain's armband during Wolves' recent friendly victory over FC Chamby in France.

"And he backed the club to get it right in the transfer market this summer as Wolves look to mount a Premier League promotion push."

### Shrewsbury 1 Wolves 1 WOLVES don't start their league campaign until Saturday week. And on this showing they need all the preparation time they can get.

A pre-season friendly, yes, but Wolves were thoroughly uninspiring against their Shropshire neighbours.

In the words of their head coach they lacked desire and hunger. They were also lucky not to lose.

Results matter little in pre-season of course but it will be the insipid performance that has Wolves fans worried.

Add to that a continued lack of a new striker and/or a Bakary Sako replacement, plus the on-going Kevin McDonald contract situation and all is not well in WV1 right now. Wolves supporters will stomach the imminent departure of Michael Jacobs, who barely featured last season, but if quality players don't come in and the season begins badly then the atmosphere will soon darken.

All this can soon be remedied and there will be no alarm bells sounding behind the scenes at Molineux, far from it.

#### Motivated

But if Wolves want to hit the ground running against Blackburn on August 8 then the next 12 days are very important.

Kenny Jackett warned beforehand that Shrewsbury would be motivated - and that Wolves needed to be equal to that - but the players were strangely subdued.

Micky Mellon's newly-promoted League One side began on the front foot and nearly scored inside 30 seconds, with former Willenhall Town striker Tyrone Barnett firing into the side netting.

Shrewsbury looked sharp in the opening stages but it was Wolves who took an early lead. McDonald, back in the XI after missing the Burton win due to his contract saga, was central to most of Wolves' first half play and he sent a perfect floating cross onto the head of Nouha Dicko, who obliged with his second 10th minute goal in as many games.

Barnett drove across goal and Mat Sadler volleyed inches over, before the hosts scored a deserved equaliser with Barnett sending a Liam Lawrence corner past Ikeme.

## County champions book finals spot



Himley Under-15 Boys are bidding for national glory

HIMLEY UNDER-15 BOYS have battled their way through to the group finals of the ECB National Championships.

The Staffordshire County Cup champions booked their place at the penultimate stage of the competition, which was due to take place on Wednesday at Leamington Cricket Club, with a convincing 85-run victory against Bridgnorth.

Himley had won the toss and batted first and went on to score 122 all out in their 20 overs.

Bridgnorth struggled to cope with what turned out to be an excellent Himley bowling attack and their run chase faded under heavy artillery from the Staffordshire side.

They were eventually taken out by the Himley bowlers for 37 runs in the 17th over.

Himley captain Chad Brandrick said: "It was a great victory and fantastic team performance. Although we were a little disappointed with our batting performance, our fielding and bowling skills were exemplary on the night.

"We are all looking forward to the finals and hopefully we give a good account of ourselves and come out on top on the day."

## Baggies need the quality and quantity

### Swindon 1 Albion 4

ALBION boss Tony Pulis knows his team need more quality and quantity within their ranks ahead of the new Premier League season.

Saturday's pre-season friendly at League One Swindon Town unfortunately further emphasised that harsh reality despite their emphatic 4-1 victory.

A James Morrison brace and further strikes from Victor Anichebe and Stephane Sessegnon gave the travelling Baggies fans plenty to cheer. And their team were always one step ahead of their lower-league opponents, albeit in a very competitive game.

But the sight of defender Gareth McAuley limping off just before half time, was the last thing Pulis and his small squad needed.



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## Impressive dedication of players

A DUDLEY primary school's cricket coach has said how impressed he is by the dedication of his cup-winning team.

Milking Bank Primary School's Under-11 girls returned home with a trophy after triumphing at the South West Regional Kwik Cricket Finals which were staged in Bristol.

The school team won all four of their matches which meant they were able to triumph at the tournament, which was held at Clifton College.

When asked what had been the key factor in his team's success, coach Mr Matt Farmer said: "It has been down to their commitment.

"The dedication shown by the kids has been very impressive.

"They have trained at break times, at lunch times and they are always willing to learn and to do their best," added coach Farmer.

The competition, which featured 13 invited teams from all over the country, began with a series of qualifying group matches.

Milking Bank got their campaign off to the ideal start by winning both of their matches before defeating New Forest from Hampshire in the semi-finals and then heading to the final.

The match came down to them against Willowbank from Somerset with Milking Bank then scoring a decisive victory.

Team captain Isabel Llabres-Diaz made 32 as Milking Bank scored 52-1 from their innings.

Miriam Mahmood took the first Willowbank wicket with the first ball of their opponents' innings as they bowled out their opponents for just 37 to claim the trophy.

This latest success adds to a growing trophy collection for the school, which also won the Midlands title last year.

## Jackett demands more passion from his players

WOLVES boss Kenny Jackett has demanded improvement from his side - after slamming them for showing no hunger or desire in their pre-season draw at Shrewsbury.

Jackett's team laboured to a 1-1 draw with Nougha Dicko's early opener cancelled out by Tyrone Barnett.

And with just two pre-season games to go - starting against Villa at Molineux tomorrow - Wolves do not have long to get into shape before the league season starts at Blackburn on August 8.

"I was disappointed in that lack of hunger and desire as I was last week and we need to improve," Jackett said.

"Overall, in the last two games against Burton and Shrewsbury, we have been fortunate to win one and draw one.

"We understand it is not necessarily about results at this stage."

Wolves fans have voiced frustration over a lack of first team signings.

Jackett said he understood those concerns and was keen to ensure the squad has enough quality come August 8.

● **Hunger - inside**

## Welcome win for Halesowen side

SKIPPER Rich Brooker inspired Halesowen with the ball as they secured a welcome win over Old Elizabethans at the weekend.

Brooker was the star bowler with four wickets and with Ed Kilbee leading the batting, the result was never really in doubt.

It means Brooker's men head into another home game with Eastnor on Saturday in good shape with space developing between them and the clubs below.

Said Brooker: "We took advantage of a good toss to win taking two early wickets until a fightback from the Old Elizabethans overseas player Johann Smit.

### Cricket

"I thought he batted aggressively but when Dan Jeavons bowled him a collapse followed.

"We were disappointed not to bowl them out earlier, to be honest, when we had them 112-9.

"Aggressive early batting from Johal and Kilbee took the game away from them with the score on 52 off 7 overs when the first wicket fell.

"Kilbee did well and ensured there would be no drama finishing 77 not out off 81 balls with good support from Moseley and Shahid.

"We are all pleased with the win and hopefully

now we can carry the momentum from this into Saturday's home game with Eastnor."

Old Elizabethans were 150 all out after 53.5 overs, a target which Halesowen were always confident of reaching with some comfort.

Johan Smit top scored with 49 off 60 balls and hit 10 fours, Brooker took 4-21 from 13 overs.

Halesowen knocked them off in 28 overs with Ed Kilbee unbeaten on 77 and former skipper Faisal Shahid joined him to see them through on 154-2.

This Saturday the seconds travel to Shrewsbury in their latest league action.

## Pulis wants to bring in new blood

ALBION boss Tony Pulis says fans and players alike expect new signings ahead of the new Premier League season.

And the Hawthorns chief is determined to add to his ranks in the remaining two weeks before his team's top flight curtain-raiser against Manchester City on August 10.

So far Albion have made just one summer capture, bringing in midfielder James McClean from Wigan Athletic.

Several more names have been linked with a move to the Hawthorns since then but no further captures have been made, and Pulis acknowledges that it is not just supporters who will expect to see new faces coming through the doors in the coming days.

He said: "We need to bring players in. I think the dressing room is waiting for players to come in. But we are working hard behind the scenes.

"There is a whole host of players out there, but it is not about just signing any players. It is about signing good players."

Pulis' second summer capture of the season could well be former Arsenal midfielder Abou Diaby.

The Albion head coach said: "We've made him an offer. Whether he accepts that and the ethos of the football club we'll wait and see."

Pulis acknowledged that his team needs to improve in all areas, especially up front.

And the boss defended new-boy McClean following a late tackle in the first half of the game at the County Ground, saying: "It was a poor challenge, I don't think McClean meant it. It was a forward tackling back, it was mis-timed and it just went from there." It was a tough game. The way Swindon play they make you chase the ball, it was warm and the pitch got sticky as the game went on"

## Glassboys sign up trialist Hayward

STOURBRIDGE have completed the signing of trialist Nathan Hayward.

The 24-year-old midfielder has played for Kidderminster Harriers and Redditch United in previous seasons.

He played in the Glassboys' opening two friendlies against AFC Bridgnorth and Bewdley Town but missed last Saturday's Worcestershire Senior Cup quarter-final against Redditch United.

He is the second trialist to have been offered a deal by boss Gary Jackett after forward Jamie Insall was confirmed earlier this week.

Insall scored the winner against Bridgnorth.

★★★

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# INSALL GETS LATE STRIKE

Alvechurch 1 Stourbridge 1  
**STOURBRIDGE were pushed all the way by a well-organised Alvechurch outfit, and had Jamie Insall to thank for a late equaliser.**

Gary Jackett gave a run-out to former West Bromwich Albion youngster Aaron Birch in the first half, and the changes were rung after the interval with a total of 18 players used in all.

The home side are now managed by Ian Long and their line-up featured many former Tividale players who have followed Long to his new club.

Playing up the considerable Lye Meadow slope in the first half, the Glassboys fell behind on 35 minutes when a long diagonal pass by David Bellis caught out Dan Scarr on the right side of the defence and Josh March controlled the ball neatly in his stride before slotting low past Charlie Price.

### Persistence

It took until the 85th minute for the visitors to level when persistence by Lee Chilton on the right, and a good use of the advantage law by the referee as the Stourbridge man was held back, presented Insall with the chance to stab his shot home from eight yards.

On Tuesday night (August 4) Stourbridge host their near neighbours Lye Town in a derby pre-season derby at the War Memorial Athletic Ground, kick-off 7.30pm. Admission is £5 for adults, senior citizens/juniors aged 16-18 £3 with free admission for 15 and under.

● Stourbridge FC have rearranged their home midweek games this season to be played on Monday evenings. Given the number of other games that are played on Tuesday evenings the Glassboys felt that it would be worth trying a change.

The games affected are: Stourbridge v Nantwich Town (changes from August 18 to 17); Stourbridge v Barwell (changes from September 8 to 7); Stourbridge v Grantham Town (changes from September 29 to 28); Stourbridge v Sutton Coldfield Town (changes from October 13 to 12); Stourbridge v Ilkeston (changes from October 20 to 19). Any midweek home Cup fixtures will also be played on Monday evenings.

## Morgan gives thanks for help

A YOUNG motocross star from Himley has helped Great Britain finish second in the World Junior Championships in Spain.

Morgan Evans, aged 10, finished 26th in his category on his international debut at the El Molar track, near Madrid, to help Team GB finish on the podium after three days of intense competition.

Evans was called up to the national squad last month but his dream quickly came under threat when his family realised they would have to find more than £1,000 at short notice to cover the cost of travel and accommodation.

Determined not to miss out, Evans started an online campaign on the site Go-fundme.com which raised almost £1,000 for him. Evans posted a thank you on the web page following the trip which reads: "My dream came true.

"Thank you to everyone for helping me get to the World Motocross Championships. I came 26th overall and Team GB came second overall in the World.

"It was an experience I will never forget. Thank you."

And his delighted mother Suzanne Evans added: "We would like to thank everyone that helped fund the trip of a lifetime for Morgan.

"He rode really well."



Morgan Evans, aged 10, with the medal he won in the contest



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